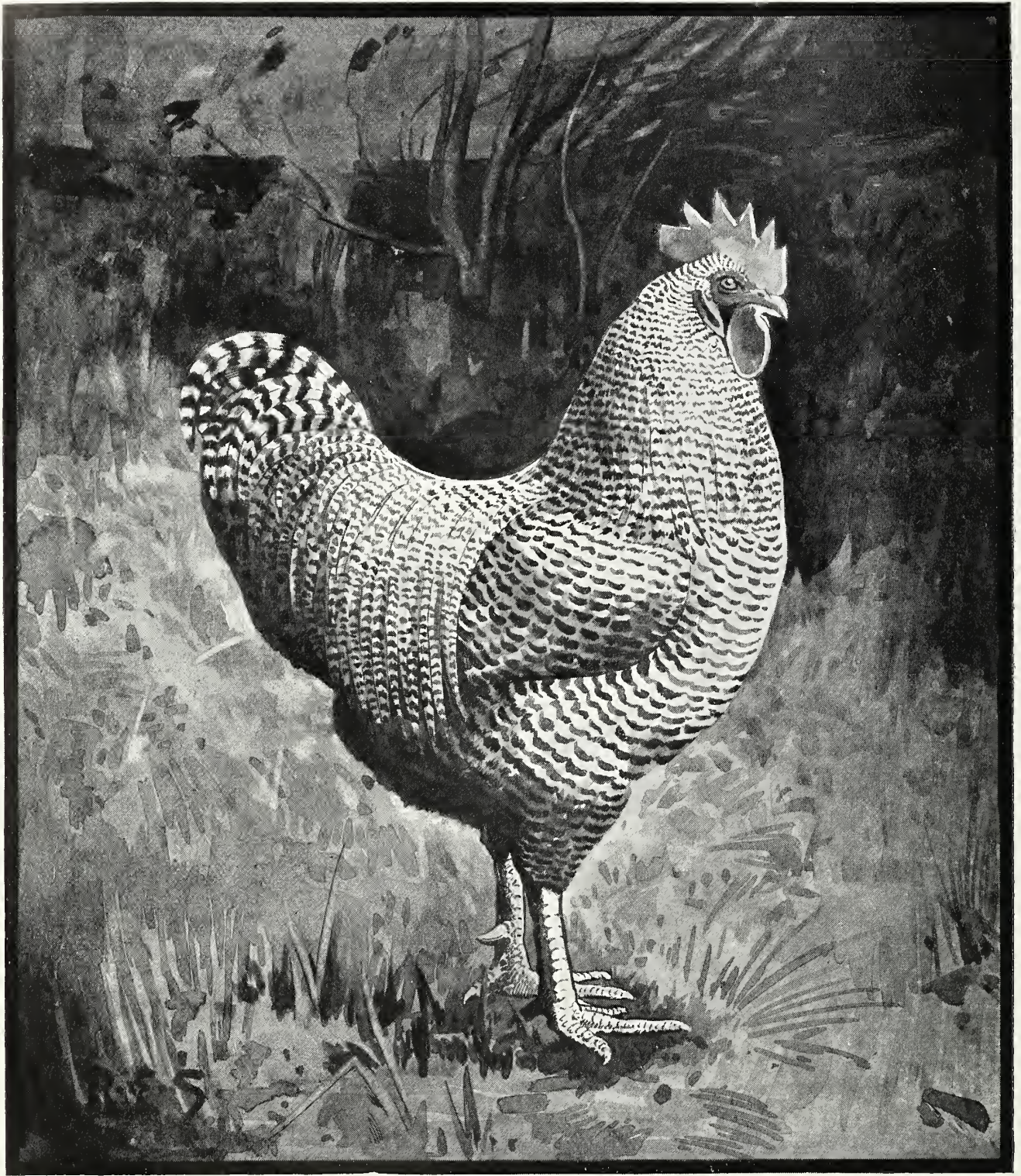


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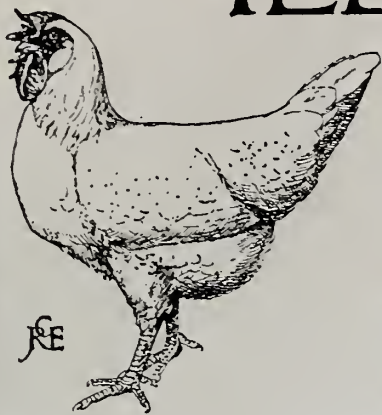
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A BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK COCKEREL.

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THE ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD



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DIARY OF THE MONTH.

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

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The Editor will be glad to consider any MSS., photographs, or sketches submitted to him, but they should be accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes for return if unsuitable. In case of loss or injury he cannot hold himself responsible for MSS., photographs, or sketches, and publication in the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD can alone be taken as evidence of acceptance. The name and address of the owner should be placed on the back of all pictures and MSS. All rights of reproduction and translation are reserved.

The Editor will be glad to hear from readers on any Poultry Topics, and all Queries addressed to the paper will be answered by experts in the several departments. The desire is to help those who are in difficulty regarding the management of their poultry, and accordingly no charge for answering such queries is made.

The Annual Subscription to the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD at home and abroad is 8s., including postage, except to Canada, in which case it is 7s. Cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.

The ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD is published on the first of every month. Should readers experience any difficulty in securing their copies promptly they are requested to communicate immediately with the Editor. The latest date for receiving advertisements is the 20th of the month preceding date of issue.

The utmost care is exercised to exclude all advertisements of a doubtful character. If any reader has substantial grounds for complaint against an advertiser he is requested to communicate at once with the Editor.

1910 And Its Story.

"Progression has been very marked during the last twelve months" is the keynote of Mr. Edward Brown's review on "The Poultry Industry in 1910," which has been extensively published in our weekly contemporaries, and need not be reproduced in full. We give on another page the statistical sections, as these contain records it is desirable to preserve. As everyone knows who has paid any attention to poultry questions, the year has been one of the most important we have known, not alone in this country but elsewhere. The long and laborious work of many years is finding its reward in recognition of the important place which poultry already holds in agriculture, but which is capable of vast extension. Prejudices and predilections die hard, but these are losing much of their repressive influence. There is much yet to be done ere production is equal to opportunity. Encouragement has, however, been given recently to an extent never known previously, and those who have wrought strenuously for development of the poultry industry may regard with satisfaction what has been accomplished and go forward with redoubled energy and confidence. Many features are dealt with in this interesting review of the year, in which the chief shadow is thrown by the neglect of poultry instruction in England and Wales by the authorities responsible, to which special attention has been directed in the POULTRY RECORD from time to time. That we hope will soon be remedied. An interesting fact is mentioned—namely, that adoption of co-operative methods in any district, or even the threat, benefits producers by compelling traders to adopt improved methods and pay higher prices.

The Amateur in the Fancy.

It is frequently asserted that an amateur stands no chance of success in the exhibition world, though we think such a statement too sweeping, for it depends largely upon what kind of amateur he is. We are accustomed to hear that the professionals monopolise the prizes and dictate to the judges; but here again there is no discrimination, for, happily, there are plenty of judges who refuse to be dictated to. Thus, the amateur's chances do not depend so much upon the judges and the professionals as upon his own efforts, and the reason why we so frequently hear of amateurs being beaten, even when they have some good birds, is because they do not know how to make the most of their opportunities. Frequently one hears an amateur complain that he has no luck when he shows his birds, but as soon as he sells them to a professional they go and win prizes. Is it because the professional has influence with the judge, or because he knows how to show a bird to advantage?

Poultry-Breeding in Cyprus.

The possibilities of production on the island of Cyprus, in the Eastern Mediterranean, are said to be very great, as the fertility of its soil has been proverbial for centuries, and we are assured by M. Symeonides, a Cyprian agriculturist who gave us a call recently, that it is intended to develop poultry-breeding, and more especially turkeys, extensively, and, as far as possible, organise both the production and marketing on advanced lines. In fact, he is over here with the object of studying Western European methods, and will doubtless take back with him breeding-stock for the purpose of improving the native races. His opinion is that the climate and soil of Cyprus are very favourable to poultry, and that turkeys thrive over the greater part of the island, which has not the same extremes of temperature found on the mainland. It will be very interesting to watch the progress made, and we hope from time to time to be able to record results of such efforts as may be put forth. Cyprus is about one hundred miles long and thirty to sixty miles broad, and has a population of about a quarter of a million. Since it was occupied by the British it has made considerable progress. It is about two hundred and fifty miles from Port Said, whence the connections with England are abundant, and the intention is to forward produce by that route. Eggs are very low in price, although much better than Egyptians in size. During the winter they sell at three for one penny, and in the spring six for one penny.

Poultry Caravans.

The Belgian Poultry Industry does not owe much to encouragement by Federal and local authorities, but it is capable of great extension and improvement. It is proposed to equip a number of caravans as schools of poultry, which, perambulating the country, will impart technical instruction and endeavour to form centres for receiving, packing, and forwarding poultry and eggs. It will be remembered that a similar suggestion was made by the Departmental Committee on Poultry-Breeding in Scotland.

Rural Agricultural Instruction.

In the early part of last year the Presidents of the Boards of Agriculture and Education constituted a Rural Education Committee to consider and advise on the methods most conducive to promote rural education in practical subjects, and to inquire whether each county should maintain its own staff of teachers. A first report has been presented and published, in which, after showing what is the present position, we find it stated:

We consider that it may be laid down as a general principle that every county either should be associated, in combination with other counties, with an efficient centre, or, if not in combination, should have a minimum staff of its own. We think it desirable, especially in view of the difficulty of obtaining qualified teachers and organisers, to concentrate higher agricultural education, as far as possible, in a few really efficient centres.

The Neglect of Poultry.

With this everyone will agree as a principle, but all depends upon the way in which it is applied. We note that among the supplementary staff suggested are instructors in poultry-keeping, which is so far to the good; but why these should be on the supplementary list it is difficult to see. With possibly the exception of as many counties as can be counted on the fingers of one hand, every county in England and Wales should have one poultry instructor giving all his time, and in some cases two to four would be none too many. In the light of the information given in our December issue by "Statistician," that fact is evident. Even in the counties which have done most for poultry it is impossible for the present instructors to do justice to their subject. And, in addition, nearly every county should have a well-equipped demonstration and experimental farm. The qualifications recommended are:

(a) A thorough training in the theoretical and practical sides of the subject after at least six months' course at an approved institution.

(b) At least twelve months' practical work on a poultry farm.

(c) Experience in teaching and demonstrating.

These, however, are not enough. Each poultry instructor should, in addition, have at least two years' agricultural training as a basis.

Field Meetings or Institutes.

It is satisfactory to note the practical efforts which are being made all over the country to promote the extension and adoption of better methods of production, in which poultry must occupy an important place. One of the methods suggested is by means of what are called Field Meetings or Institutes, with the special object of reaching farmers and their wives who have only very little time or few opportunities of attending classes or courses of instruction, even if they were disposed to do so, which many are not. In Canada and the United States these Institutes are conducted

Agricultural College Poultry Farm at Kilmarnock last August indicates that such gatherings would be popular and valuable in this country, and we are glad to see that similar meetings are proposed in other parts of Scotland. They are usually held in the summer and in the open air, but probably if well organised in connection with winter shows might attract a wider circle of attendants to those events.

County Poultry Experiments.

The only county in Great Britain, so far as we are aware, which has conducted systematically experiments in poultry-keeping is Cornwall, which for the last ten years has expended a modicum of its technical education funds in this manner. That the money has been profitably spent is unquestionable. On the whole the experiments have been practical,



STOCK DUCK PENS.

[Copyright.]

Each flock of ducks is provided with a gravel run and with swimming water. A raised footway extends from one end of the pens to the other, immediately in front of the houses, from which each run can be entered, thus dispensing with gates. One of the most complete and up-to-date duck plants in existence.

extensively, and deal with every branch of agriculture. At Washington is a special section of the Department of Agriculture whose duty is to promote, supervise, and financially aid Institutes all over the States. As an example of what is being done may be cited the Poultry Institute held at Guelph College every February, which, as we have noted previously, has been most successful, exerting a marked influence in Ontario. The object is to bring together those engaged in the pursuit, and by papers and discussion enlarge their outlook and increase their knowledge by interchange of ideas and experience. The success which attended the meeting upon the West of Scotland

and the knowledge thus gained cannot fail to be valuable, not alone within the county borders but elsewhere. We welcome, therefore, the publication of a booklet embodying the observations made over the entire period, together with excerpts from experiments elsewhere, and a considerable amount of information upon poultry-keeping generally. It is an excellent treatise, which deserves wide circulation. The question is thus raised, why have not other County Councils adopted similar methods? The essential need for carefully-conducted experiments has been abundantly evident in this country, yet out of seventy-six counties in Great Britain, Cornwall stands alone in this important

work. When we compare what has been done in America our deficiencies are woefully great. The little State of Rhode Island has devoted a hundred-fold as much labour and money to the solution of poultry problems as the whole of the United Kingdom.

An Attenuated Report.

Last May and June a deputation from University College, Reading, visited several of the agricultural colleges in Canada and the United States for the purpose of observations as to agricultural education across the Atlantic, and their report has now been published. Considering the past connection of Reading College with advanced poultry instruction, it was reasonable to expect that this subject would have received adequate consideration in the report. That, however, is not the case, and the omission is very marked. The agricultural institutions visited were only five, at four of which are

at the present time, lacks that wideness of view which is essential to command attention, and ignores what is one of the most important branches of agricultural instruction in Canada and the United States.

Correspondents Beware.

Every successful poultry-keeper knows something of the burden of correspondence and has experienced what it means to have letters from absolutely unknown individuals, asking a multitude of questions and, more often than not, forgetting to enclose a stamped envelope for reply. It is one of the penalties of publicity and success. The time lost in replying to querists is often a very serious part of the day's work, which ought to have been devoted to more profitable tasks. There can be no question that poultry-keepers are long-suffering in this respect, patient to an extreme. We have no wish to discourage that spirit of kindly



AUTUMN-HATCHED COCKERELS FOR MARKETING DURING APRIL AND MAY. [Copyright.]

excellent poultry plants. Mention is certainly made that poultry husbandry is taught at Macdonald and Ontario Colleges and at Cornell University, but that is practically all; and with respect to the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, it is not even stated that any poultry are kept there. It is difficult to conceive how a body of men, presumably interested in agricultural education in its various branches, could omit reference to one which holds an important place in the curriculum and equipment of these respective institutions, except designedly. But this represents too often the attitude of Agricultural College authorities in this country. The report, therefore, which might have been a valuable contribution to study of the question

generosity which leads poultry-keepers to help others, for it has done much for the extension of the industry, to the gain of all. But there is a limit to it. Some time ago a letter was shown to us, which had been received by a well-known poultry-breeder from someone of whom he had never heard previously and who was certainly not at all apologetic for the trouble he was giving, much less thought it necessary to enclose a stamp for reply. The questions in this letter would have needed a day's work to answer fully. That sort of thing is beyond all reason, and has the effect of causing poultrymen to decline to give even that assistance and advice that are within their power and inclination.

A NATIONAL EGG-PRODUCTION SCHEME.

SMALL POULTRY ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS IN EVERY DISTRICT
THROUGHOUT THESE ISLES—CENTRALISATION AND CO-OPERATION
—THE MEANS OF CREATING A NECESSARY AND PROFITABLE EGG-
PRODUCING INDUSTRY—THE SOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL
FRESH FOOD SUPPLY DIFFICULTY.

By CAPTAIN G. B. BENNETT.

THE annual imports of eggs into this country from Russia, Denmark, France, and other countries represent approximately the incredible sum of seven and a half million pounds sterling. Tens of millions of Russian and other foreign eggs are sold daily in our markets and shops to the consumer, small numbers of French and Danish reaching us, moderately fresh, within a week after proud hens heralded their safe arrival in the nests with the usual fanfare of joyous cackling and ear-piercing screeches. But the vaster stupendous quantities sent us from far-off lands and steppes, after long delays in transit and shipment, are weeks, and even months, old before they reach our shores, and they are frequently totally unfit for human food, and, to our shame, as often as not, are retailed and described as "prime fresh eggs." It is time the Legislature passed an Act of Parliament requiring their compulsory stamping with dates when laid before being permitted to enter the country. Well might we use them as hand-grenades in warfare, like the ancient Chinese hurled the "chemical stink-pots" at the foe. These foreign productions provide us with the most terrible, unbeatable, most effective, and never - to - be - improved - upon "little Dreadnoughts" for all times, and can be purchased for the nation from foreign stockyards at the ridiculous price of twenty-five for a shilling.

Our universal insecurity from the point of sound and sufficient food supply is becoming alarming, for our home efforts at production are inadequate. We can best condense the situation into an epigram when we say, let us be wise in time, steadfast of purpose, and go forth to produce all rapidly perishable foodstuffs, including the vast quantities of new-laid eggs required at home.

For years the Press, poultry journals, and our experts have urged the gentry, farmers,

and cottagers to cultivate the egg-producing industry. Some good progress undoubtedly has been made, but not on a scale sufficient with our requirements, as the imports bear striking witness. And why not? Because we have been late in the field in organising a national system of collecting, testing, grading, and marketing, so long established in some foreign countries, notably in Denmark, with unbounded success. We have been thwarted and hampered by want of co-operation and absence of "Small Poultry Allotment Associations," but the timely adoption of similar methods and means may yet gain for us a vicarious triumph.

On our mixed farms, where grazing and general cultivation of the soil are carried on, aviculture and egg-production, as a rule, forms only an infinitesimal part of the agricultural holding, and is frequently in the same backward condition and tended under the time-honoured methods known to our great grandfathers.

Praiseworthy efforts have been made by County Councils and expert poultry lecturers to teach the farmer modern science and the best systems of breeding, rearing, and keeping poultry, but profitable markets they cannot provide him with. This is the work of a National Collecting Society. The farmer finds it too expensive sending daily new-laid eggs to the distant market, hence his neglect of the industry. Until the national spirit has been thoroughly aroused, and the constructive side and benefits of co-operating with the National Poultry Organisation Society have been assiduously preached from every town and village platform, and the egg-collecting system has been adopted by the farmer, the public will have reason for alarm at the certain prospect of shortage and famine in new-laid eggs. But whatever the farmer's ultimate output under the most favourable

circumstances may give us, it can never do more than cover a fraction of our ever-growing demand. We must unite our voices for the realisation of the ideal to produce our own requirements. It behoves us to weigh the national difficulty, and we shall find solution in the establishment of "Small Poultry Allotment Associations" everywhere, under a system of co-operation, which will provide us with plenty, and find profitable employment for tens of thousands of our countrymen and countrywomen.

Thanks to the efforts of the National Poultry Organisation Society—and our ineffable gratitude is due to the committee and officers for their constant and laborious attention and present achievements—we may be within measurable distance of seeing the much-needed system of collecting eggs in general operation throughout these Islands, though unless there is speedy community of aims and undeviating determination on the part of producers to support the Society, it may be years before the producer and the vast congeries of town and village peoples will reap the benefit.

But while our own production is ignominiously inadequate, and we grumble at foreign imported eggs and the small proportion of moderately fresh ones obtained, let us not forget that even the supply of these may be very considerably curtailed in the near future, and prices raised, for the simple reason that some of the great Continental countries, owing to their rapidly-swelling populations and increasing demand, are importing eggs wherever they can obtain them, instead of exporting to us. It is time we were beginning to wake up and realise the urgent necessity to organise "Small Poultry Allotment Associations" everywhere and build up the industry on sane and model principles, and not to allow a potential national asset to waste. Unless we do this promptly, it is obvious we shall be perennially in danger of losing a sufficient supply of sound foodstuffs and so impairing the health of the people.

Let us now for a moment turn our attention to the small producer of eggs, the cottager, and the back-yarder, who bravely nurtures the industry, in primitive fashion, at his own home, in or near our crowded cities, and inquire into some of the conditions prevailing. Let us see how our enterprising friend can improve and best serve his own interests and pockets and be of help to the national requirements. If he has not sufficient good and selected scraps, fresh vegetables, and cheap food generally, he is at a disadvantage, and cannot compete with the farmer who has open fields and cheap and excellent food galore. Being isolated and boxed up by grimy walls, he has no option

but to purchase small quantities of grain, meal, and fresh vegetables at enhanced prices. Again we say, co-operation, removal to small poultry allotments, and centralisation of the local industry is his only remedy and road to success.

Let us also consider the back-yard from a sanitary point of view and the standpoint of our philosophic inquirer and critic. Here our eyes may not always fall on wonderful sights and fascinating beauty spots, and our nostrils may take supreme command and direct our movements. Unless there is sufficient space and ventilation, unless the houses, scratching-sheds, and nests are kept scrupulously clean, and unless the soil in the runs, to the depth of twelve inches, is periodically taken out and replaced by fresh earth and turf, disease of a highly contagious and infectious character, such as diphtheria, fowl cholera, tuberculosis, and other maladies, is liable to break out at any moment among the birds. To add to the danger, tubercle bacilli and other disease germs from the infected ovary may enter the inner egg and so carry it into the human system. Let us add that parasites and other vermin infest both poultry and unclean hen-houses, while fouled nests soil and poison the eggs, by putrefied excrement, containing disease germs, penetrating the air pores of shell and layer. More disease can be traced to unclean houses and to pestilential back premises than appears to be suspected by the public or realised by the medical profession. Such a condition of things as described not only means death and destruction to the entire pen of birds, but appalling danger to the health of our own little ones and their bread-winners. Alas! who dare think and say what our losses may have been in the past? These veritable death-traps, the many thousands throughout the country, and the horrors of the poultry-dealer's lofts, where disease is bred and from whence it spreads, must be abolished. Back-gardens and yards and dealers' premises, for the purposes of poultry-keeping, should be licensed, or subjected to the strictest rules and regulations as to cleanliness, numbers, and inspection—let our legislators turn their timely attention to them. Would that these words of solemn warning might reach every woman and man, every mother and father, throughout the land, and re-echo in the halls and lobbies of Westminster and the Council Chambers of Downing Street.

We will assume, and the assumption is in accordance with the dictates of common truth, that there are many householders' and cottagers' gardens and back-yards where poultry is kept which are models of cleanliness. At the same time, we advocate removal of the birds to the near countryside on small poultry



Probably there is no town in the kingdom so well provided with Poultry Allotments and Small-holdings as Burnley in Lancashire. The above photographs depict half a dozen of the most progressive plants. No. 1 shows Mr. Latham's Breeding-Pens; No. 2 a Flock of Prolific Layers belonging to Mr. Haworth; No. 3 some Early Chickens on Mr. Crabtree's Farm; No. 4 the Pen of Buff Orpingtons, belonging to Mr. Hargreaves, that holds the Record for Laying in any Competition; No. 5 the Glass-house which Mr. Gordon uses as a Brooder; and No. 6 a General View of Mr. Skipper's Farm, where over 34,000 eggs were produced in twelve months, although it is only half an acre in extent. [Copyright.]

allotments when profit is the aim in view. The eggs supplied to us by the town keeper's fowls, however fresh and clean, are never so rich and delicious as those from the open country.

Small poultry allotments in combination with small orchard and vegetable-growing plots, arranged so as to provide the necessary change of ground for the birds, serving also the purposes of fertilisation, and conducted under a system of co-operation and expert instruction, are little gold-mines for all classes and conditions of women and men. Their initial capital outlay is very small, and will soon repay us. They will enable the masses, after having gained knowledge and experience, to take up larger holdings at home or in the Colonies, with certainty of success. They will do much to quicken and ripen the national movement of "Back to the land, back to home and beauty, back to health, back to happiness, prosperity, and contentment."

Let us say one word on the prospects of profits from poultry-keeping, fruit-tree and vegetable cultivation, and co-operation on small poultry allotments. During the long autumn and winter months, when new-laid eggs are scarce and often command a price of three-halfpence to twopence and more each, it is quite possible with care, proper feeding, and understanding to obtain from thirty pullets of the right winter-laying strain, occupying the small allotment plots which we describe later, ninety eggs per week, or, say, 2,340 in six months at a profit of £10; during the early spring and summer months, when breeding and rearing are carried on, the profits can be very considerably increased, while from parts of the runs upon which fruit-trees stand, and the adjoining part of the plot on which we grow our vegetables, almost equally good results and profits may be secured. Suitable provision can always be made for those who do not desire to go in for market-gardening and wish to keep poultry only, with or without fruit-tree cultivation, but the principle of change of ground must always be enforced. May not we also count upon the support of thousands of householders whose chief desire it is to produce their own requirements in new-laid eggs, and dispose of surplus, and on the armies of paying guest and boarding-house keepers? What better advertisement for the latter to fill their houses than the simple announcement, "New-laid eggs provided for visitors from own poultry allotment farm"?

Recent developments in small garden allotments and the rush of applicants for plots indicate a very marked revival in favour of a return to the land and a desire to gain knowledge and prepare for a prosperous career at

home or in Canada and the Colonies. In approaching the problem, it will hardly become necessary to advance any special scheme for the constitution of "Co-operative Small Poultry Allotment Associations." At some future time we will gladly submit to our indulgent readers and for the consideration of any National Committee a detailed scheme dealing with the whole subject for their kindly consideration and most necessary criticism and improvements. We would, however, at once suggest that local Associations might with advantage supply and put up the poultry-houses, scratching-sheds, wire netting, and shelters, which should be on the most modern and approved principles, and sell the erections to small holders at a slight profit, subject to rent of plot. The question of cockerels and their supply by the Associations might be taken into consideration. Wherever required, Associations should supply small holders with poultry food at wholesale prices, and, if needed, also provide labour for feeding, cleaning, and collecting purposes, on the sharing-of-cost principle, and all holders should generally co-operate and become members of the National Society for collecting and marketing the eggs. Stringent Club Rules must be framed as to cleanliness, change of ground, numbers of birds, inspection, preventing and stamping-out of disease, and for ensuring protection of common interests, all of which must be strictly enforced. "Conveners" must also be provided and expert advice by the committee rendered to all small holders, and classes of instruction arranged for. Especially will it be necessary for the local committee to advise on and instruct in the selection of best laying strains, mating, and the infusion of necessary new and unrelated blood; the science of artificial and natural breeding and rearing, with special regard for obtaining stock with increased laying capabilities; the proper feeding, fattening, and killing, egg-testing and grading; the construction and ventilation of houses without draughts, cubic capacity of air space required per bird; scratching-sheds, trap-nests, sizes of runs for given numbers of poultry; the prevention and detection of disease and treatment; market-gardening and fruit-tree cultivation; and, finally, to advise on judicious expansion, removal to larger holdings on agricultural and commercial scale where desired, or on emigration to Canada, South Africa, Australia, and the Colonies, after a thorough knowledge and experience in the business has been gained.

By judicious arrangement of poultry-houses and combined plots for birds and vegetable cultivation the land can be so laid out as to provide for the birds' change from one to another grass run, upon both of which the

fruit-trees stand, and by annually changing the vegetable-producing parts, the poultry will also be able to occupy and fertilise the resting-ground. Such an arrangement would also include, within the plot, separate accommodation for breeding and rearing purposes to replace old stock and raising limited numbers of birds for table or sale, and provide space for the change of their runs. Useful plots, for the combined purposes, may cover half an acre or less.

We venture to express the opinion that if public meetings were held under the auspices of a Central National Committee consisting of influential, patriotic, and experienced men and women in all towns of 20,000 inhabitants and over, probably hundreds of applicants for small poultry allotments, willing and able to invest from £5 to £20 in stock and appliances, could be readily secured in every locality. It would then become an easy task to form the local "Small Poultry Allotment Associations," with local support under the management of a local committee, and the guidance, advice, and rules of a Central National Society.

Women and men who are accustomed to apply their minds broadly to weighty public matters, who approach a problem without fear or favour in the interests of the community, would render this movement most excellent services by raising their voices and using their pens. We appeal to their patriotism to come forward and arouse the people's interests and bring their imperilled sound food supply home to them; we appeal to their generosity and hearts to support this good cause, we ask them to enlighten the masses so that they may know and learn that "Small Poultry Allotment Associations," established everywhere throughout these Isles, mean health and increased wealth to the nation and employment for tens of thousands of women and men. We ask them to appoint a National Committee and to subscribe some funds for the purposes of organising the scheme and making a start. We ask the indulgence and kindness of the Editor of this journal to throw open its columns for purposes of discussion, to receive subscriptions, and hold them on behalf of the proposed National Committee. With equal earnestness we appeal to the generous Press to give publicity to the aims and objects of the movement. The writer will gladly act as hon. secretary, *pro tem.*, until the first meeting of the Committee.

Let us consider, in drawing these lines to a close, what the adoption of the scheme would mean to British trade and prosperity and the employment of labour. Basing our calculations on the momentary presumption that new-laid eggs cost on the average (summer with winter prices) one penny each, that present-day hens lay 130 per annum (small holders under a system of co-operation and expert instruction can easily raise the average to 160 per annum), and that we wish to produce at home four and a half million pounds' worth of *new-laid eggs* (not "little Dreadnoughts"), of the seven and a half million pounds representing the total value imported, we should require 8,307,693 pullets of a medium laying strain, providing us with 1,080,000,000 eggs (an average of only twenty-seven per head per annum of the population of forty millions), and of these hundreds of millions could be collected and marketed by the N.P.O.S., and would quickly find their way into our larders. Employment for some 30,000 women and men could be found to attend to the poultry and garden plots. Instructive and profitable little businesses, to add to the income by way of side line, would be provided for 225,000 small holders with an average of about thirty-eight pullets each, who would also cultivate their garden plots and attend to their fruit-trees. For tens of thousands of these and their children the small start would mean future prosperity. Upwards of 160,000 acres (more or less) of suitable land for allotments would be acquired by the local Associations, and sub-let in small plots to holders at such low rentals which the benefits of co-operation only can procure for them.

Busy workshops would supply us with 225,000 double poultry-houses, 50,000 incubators, 50,000 foster-mothers of 100 capacity, 40,000,000 yards of wire netting, while no less than 415,385 tons of grain and poultry food, for hens alone, would be required, to say nothing of millions of young fruit-trees. The whole of these stupendous quantities and numbers, by way of giving an illustration only, could be apportioned *pro rata* to 1,000 "Small Poultry Allotment Associations," each comprising 160 acres (more or less), and accommodating 225 small holders with half-acre plots, or of larger or lesser size, and of an average capacity for thirty-eight laying birds, with provision for breeding and rearing, vegetable growing, and fruit cultivation.

THE POULTRY FANCY IN 1910.

A BRIEF REVIEW.

By WILLIAM W. BROOMHEAD.

IN writing a brief *résumé* of the Poultry Fancy of the past twelve months, it is hardly possible to touch on the whole of the "happenings" that combine to make a fanciers' year. Consequently my remarks must be confined to the mention of a few of the more important of them. So many phases of the Fancy are governed in no small degree by atmospheric conditions that, worn-out topic though the weather may be, one cannot overlook it in reviewing the events of the past. That it was most unkind to the Fancy as a whole will, I think, be conceded on all sides, but the exact extent of its damage will never be known. The winter was unseasonable, and, finishing a bad year, it did not improve matters. Throughout spring the quick-change artist was at work and there were many samples—a fine hot day preceding a thoroughly wet and cold spell, the reverse, and yet again all four seasons rolled into one and appearing within the brief space of twenty-four hours. Throughout summer and autumn there was a long succession of heavy rains and strong winds, so that by the close of the year if the yards were not actually flooded they were, in many cases, waterlogged. Such conditions as those were not likely to encourage people to take to outdoor pursuits, hence it was not surprising that recruits to the Fancy were not forthcoming in large numbers. The effect all round was so depressing that it is really remarkable that at the beginning of 1911 the Fancy is still flourishing. Last year was a bad one—bad for chickens, growing stock, and moulting fowls alike, bad for shows, and, worst of all, bad for sales.

One can readily gauge its effect on the birds themselves by keeping a stock and comparing notes with other fanciers, but it is somewhat difficult to say for certainty to what extent the shows felt it. As far as I was able to gather by attending most of the important exhibitions of 1910 and many of the others, it would appear that few shows indeed can be recorded as financial successes. In many cases the takings at the gate were by no means encouraging, and I fear that more than one committee had to draw on its reserve fund to meet expenses, while others had to curtail prize-money or even declare themselves bankrupt. Maybe it will result in fewer shows being held throughout 1911, although personally I doubt it. Good sales, too, were not over-numerous ;

in fact, there were very few "startling" prices realised at the shows and auctions. Possibly the best were £100 for a Buff Orpington pullet at the Dairy Show, and £50 for a White Orpington cock at the Palace Show ; and I must not omit to mention the £20 paid for a Rose-combed Rhode Island Red cockerel (the record price for the breed as far as its career in this country is concerned) at Manchester Show. During my chats with fanciers at the exhibitions and while paying visits to their yards, I was told of good figures having been realised for stock by private treaty. Nevertheless, I know of more than one breeder, whose names, too, are well known in the Fancy, parting with some of the best of their produce for much under the usual value, the value obtained during a normal season.

As far as I can gather, the shows were as numerous as ever, but, generally speaking, entries were not so good as they have been, except towards the close of the year. A couple of specialist shows finished the 1909-10 exhibition season—the great Hamburgh and Hamburgh Bantam Show at Bradford, Yorks, on January 8 (with a decrease of 100 on the previous year's total), and the Welsh United Game Show at Treorchy on January 13. Otley, on May 6 and 7, was practically the first of the important summer events, but here again entries were down somewhat, and owing to a storm prevailing on both days there was a loss on the gate alone of over £384. The Irish summer season opened with Belfast on May 25, 26, and 27. During June the Royal Counties Show was held at Winchester, with an average entry of over ten a class in the sixty-one for poultry ; and the "Royal" at Liverpool, where the total entry of poultry for the 119 classes was 1,191. July was a particularly busy month, and the most important poultry shows held then were the Sussex County at Eastbourne (practically a specialist show for Orpingtons, Sussex, and Wyandottes), the Royal Northern at Aberdeen, the Yorkshire Agricultural at Roundhay Park, Leeds (with an increased entry in the poultry section), the Leicester Agricultural at Leicester (another increased entry), the Highland at Dumfries, Birkenhead, and Tunbridge Wells, with an increased entry over the total for 1909, but with twenty-one of the eighty-one classes cancelled.

Of the autumn events there was a very

good show at Lancaster on August 17, but possibly the greatest success of the season was at Hayward's Heath on September 15 and 16. Here there was a grand total of 1,670, the record entry for the society, and no less than 150 better than the previous best! It was a special effort, certainly, since there were rumours—how far official or otherwise I am not prepared to say—that had the 1910 "Heath" been a failure it would have retired from the list—a catastrophe which none of us desires. Then there were the Dairy (at Islington) and Manchester Shows in October. The Dairy was a decided success, and the entries were some 240 better than at the previous show, while at Manchester there were 2,272 entries of poultry, an increase of 280 on the 1909 total, and possibly the best show ever held in that city. The winter campaign opened with the great specialist show of Game and Bantams at Kendal on November 2 and 3, and a thoroughly representative turn-out, too. In the following week Barnstaple Show—the most important event in the South-West of England—took place; then there was the International at the Crystal Palace in the third week of November, with Birmingham opening nine days afterwards. Of the December shows there was the Irish Bantam Club's affair at Dublin on the 1st and the Royal Dublin event at the society's grounds at Balls Bridge on the 7th and 8th, both with good entries and a full attendance. The Smithfield Club's show at

Leeds and the "Combined" at Sheffield clashed in the second week, but at the former event entries came up well and competition was very keen, while at the "Combined," although the support accorded was not as strong as the executive had anticipated, there was not a bad turn-out for a first event, the entry being 2,661 in 282 classes.

Of club affairs and breeds much can be said, but these are subjects that cannot be dealt with in a thorough manner in a brief *résumé*. The specialist clubs continue in their good work, and the mother or father of them all—I really do not know the sex of clubs, although some critics insist that it is a grandmother!—the Poultry Club, is still increasing its ranks and usefulness, despite what some say to the contrary. It has definitely decided that judges at shows held under its rules must be members, and it has also seen the folly of ringing young birds, and has ceased to issue rings—both excellent decisions, in my opinion. Then as to the breeds, changes have taken place; some have gone down-hill, others have come into favour once more, and yet others have gone ahead. Waterfowl and turkeys have not made much, if any, advance, although there is still a good fancy for Orpington ducks, and White turkeys may have a boom this year. Bantams have been enjoying a good share of popularity, and some of the new breeds look like outdoing the old-established kinds in the near future.

THE OVERSEAS SUPPLIES OF EGGS AND POULTRY.

By EDWARD BROWN, F.L.S.

IN the POULTRY RECORD for November, 1909, Mr. Verney Carter called attention, for the first time, to the fact that our cousins across the North Sea are increasingly consuming eggs and poultry, and asked the question: "Will Germany intercept our foreign supplies?" That article served a most valuable purpose in affording an explanation for the decline of foreign imports of eggs, which has marked the last few years, and in calling attention to what may be a positive danger in the future. The facts stated awakened a considerable amount of notice. Among other influences exerted it was undoubtedly responsible, in a large measure, for the "Golden Egg" boom of a year ago, in that it emphasised the importance of greater home production. Upon further inquiry it became evident that the question was much more serious than any of us had imagined, and, as a consequence,

the Executive Committee of the National Poultry Organisation Society instructed me to undertake a special investigation, for which purpose I have recently made a prolonged tour in Germany, visiting a large part of the country. The first part of my Report has just been published in the *Journal* of the N.P.O.S., but there are other features which I may here and now be permitted to deal with in another way. Suffice it to say that, travelling by the excellent service of the Great Eastern Railway Company, viâ Harwich to the Hook of Holland, the great port and commercial centre of Hamburg was reached, and several districts around visited. Thence the next step was to Berlin, where I spent several days. Next various parts of Saxony were visited, and from there I went across country to Frankfort, and, by way of Rhineland, with its great industrial populations, I returned homeward. Everywhere the greatest

courtesy and help were afforded, so that my journey was greatly facilitated, and proved of the deepest interest. The one thing lacking was better weather conditions.

ERRONEOUS IDEAS.

Experience has always shown that the only way to remove erroneous ideas and notions is by personal intercourse. That is especially true in respect to foreign countries, whether we be the foreigners or others hold that position. Hitherto the opinion has been common that advanced poultry-keeping in Germany was mainly on exhibition lines, and that in respect to food production the country named had made little progress, primarily because eggs and poultry—excepting geese—are consumed to a very limited extent. Whilst such is undoubtedly true, as acknowledged by officials and others well able to judge, the view referred to did not indicate that within the last few years there have been determined and well sustained efforts to develop poultry-keeping in Germany on industrial lines, the results of which are becoming apparent, though they are small as yet. On the other hand, I was surprised to find all over Germany the same notion prevailing as to the United Kingdom, totally ignoring the great efforts which have been put forth during the past decade for development of utility poultry, and the considerable results achieved. Some of those whom I was privileged to meet thought that all British poultrymen were fanciers first and fanciers last, and that what we have done of late is merely a belated attempt on similar lines to their own. This notion is doubtless due to the fact that a large proportion of German high-class poultry is descended from exhibition stock purchased in England, and that the English weekly poultry papers give so much space to reports of shows. It was, however, very interesting to learn how easy it is to form incorrect ideas.

GERMAN INTERCEPTION.

Reverting to Mr. Verney Carter's question recorded above, the fact is that Germany has for some years been intercepting supplies of eggs from countries which are comparatively near to her own borders, and from which transit occupies a much shorter period of time, and is much less expensive than if sent to British markets. The one exception appears to be Denmark, which obtains higher returns in Great Britain than in Germany, for it is as easy to ship supplies from Aarhus or Esbjerg to Newcastle, Hull, or Leith, as it would be to send to Berlin; and Russia, which, in spite of the fact that her export of eggs to Germany

have increased from 6,038,400 gt. hds. in 1900 to 8,477,800 gt. hds. in 1909, has, in the same period, increased her direct shipments to Great Britain from 4,024,712 gt. hds. in 1900 to 8,154,635 gt. hds. in 1909. This increase is somewhat discounted by the fact that the eggs credited in our returns to Germany, a large portion of which come from Southern Russia, were in 1900 2,438,858 gt. hds., while in 1909 they had fallen to 612,817 gt. hds. The last named are naturally most susceptible to interception. In the case of Austria-Hungary official statistics show that the imports of eggs into Germany from the Dual Empire were in 1900 6,380,880 gt. hds., and in 1909 7,441,560 gt. hds., whereas in the same period those received into Britain had been practically reduced by half. Unfortunately I am unable to give the exact figures before 1907, as the British Trade and Navigation Returns do not record supplies from Austria-Hungary and Italy separately before that date, but I give the figures for the last four years:

IMPORTS INTO BRITAIN OF EGGS (quantities in gt. hds.).

Year.	Austria-Hungary.	Italy.
1907	2,299,529	1,462,125
1908	1,937,671	1,316,362
1909	1,300,246	875,758
1910	1,370,121	746,841

THE PRICE RULES.

So long as the consumption of eggs in Germany was small prices remained much below those obtainable in Britain, and as a consequence we received the supplies. It is entirely a question of price. Traders in all the countries named found that a greater profit could be made by sending right across the Continent and shipping from Antwerp, or Rotterdam, or Hamburg, to our markets, heavy though the charges might be, than if they merely forwarded them to German cities, which are one-half and in some cases one-quarter the distance, with no twice handling at seaports, in spite of the fact that the goods would be in better condition in Germany than they could ever be in our markets. The changes in the standard of life, the increasing demand for finer classes of food, and greater purchasing power in Germany have changed the whole aspect of affairs. Prices in Germany have steadily increased, until now they are, for these grades of eggs, very nearly approximating to those obtainable in Britain, and in some instances are actually higher. Traders are in the business for money, not for love, and they naturally turn to those markets where the margin between cost and sale is greatest. It is a natural development, aided by the contiguity of Germany and countries near to

her frontiers in which production is greater than consumption.

INCREASED CONSUMPTION IN GERMANY.

One of the main purposes of my visit was to inquire, as far as possible, whether this growing consumption in Germany is merely a transitory change, as a result of high prices of meat, as that article of food has advanced

facturing districts, especially as it is accompanied by enlargement of means and of purchasing power, it is practically certain that consumption will proceed at an accelerated rate. Up to the present time, though efforts are being put forth to develop poultry-keeping in Germany, upon which I shall have more to say when my investigations are completed, production of eggs does not appear to have grown



GOOSE TRAIN FROM RUSSIA AT MAGERVICHHOF MARKET, BERLIN.

The trucks consist of four tiers, and are packed tightly, so that the birds cannot move about much on the journey.
Ten thousand geese sometimes arrive in a single day.

[By courtesy of N.P.O.S.]

enormously, or is due to a permanent rise in the standard of life and the demand for a finer and more nutritious diet. After interviewing a large number of people of various classes of the community, officials, traders, and householders, I could not but come to the conclusion, which is very general all over Germany, that we have not only to regard the increased consumption of eggs already noted as certain to continue, but that we must be prepared for such increase to grow at a fairly rapid rate in the near future. With rising density of population in residential and manu-

in comparison with the advance of demand. As a result she is increasingly dependent on extraneous supplies. The only countries upon which drafts can be made are those which have heretofore looked mainly to the United Kingdom for their markets. Whilst, therefore, prices were comparatively low in Germany, due to limited demand, the supplies came to us. That is no longer the case. Eggs have doubled in value within the last twenty years, and there is growing up, as has been the case in Britain, a desire for finer quality and a willingness to pay higher prices. Up to the

present time poultry, excepting geese, have been eaten to a very small extent, but here again I found confirmation of the evidence obtained in Belgium, which country sends large quantities of fat Malines fowls to Germany, that there is a growing sale for fine quality birds, which cannot fail to exert a great influence. For the cheaper grades the same tapping of our sources of supply is at work.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

The same tendency of declining supplies is seen in other directions than Germany. We know that Canada a few years ago put forth a determined effort to place both eggs and poultry upon the British markets, and with considerable success. Canadian eggs grew steadily in favour. But so great has been the increase of consumption in the Dominion, such increase largely the result of improvement in quality, that the home consumption has advanced by leaps and bounds, and now absorbs the entire production. In 1905 the value of Canadian eggs imported was £114,557; last year it had fallen to £1,097, so that it is almost extinct. And we learn that the same is being experienced in Australia. Enhanced quality in view of the London trade has stimulated demand in the Antipodes.

In 1906 one of the reasons for my visit to America was to inquire into the steadily advancing imports of dead chickens from the United States, not alone in regard to their number but also in regard to their quality. I found in the mid-Western States great establishments where fattening was conducted on a huge scale, and that in order to meet the demand over here for white-fleshed poultry, breeds on the one hand and milk feeding on the other had been introduced. As a consequence these birds met with marked favour for hotel and restaurant trade, and had advanced considerably in price. In the year named (1906) the imports of poultry were valued at £243,750, about 30 per cent. of the total received. Since then there has been a steady decline, and in the year just closed the recorded value is £155,573, or a fall in four years of £88,177. Here again we have the same influence at work as noted elsewhere. These milk-fed Western chickens are, by reason of their superior quality and quantity of meat, finding a sale in the Eastern markets to an extent which will probably in a short period of time entirely absorb the supply, because the fatteners and packers are finding it more profitable to sell there than to ship across the Atlantic. If that is the case we cannot expect that they will send to our markets. It is, again, a question of price.

CONSUMPTION INCREASING EVERYWHERE.

The fact is that the demand for eggs and poultry is growing in almost all countries, and to a remarkable extent. Those nations which have hitherto had a surplus for export are learning the value of these products as articles of food, and are eating them more and more. There may be one or two exceptions, but, generally speaking, what is here stated is evident, and we have to face the problem which is before us, and that speedily. It will not wait our convenience. As a result of German conditions it is looming very largely, and already demands attention. Moreover, I fail to see where other supplies to fill the gap are obtainable in British colonies or foreign countries. A little may be done here and there, but not nearly sufficient to replace those lost to us. From Europe we cannot expect much, and from America still less. In fact, I am quite prepared to see ere long shipments from Adriatic and Mediterranean ports direct to America, as it is quite possible that the United States may become an importing country for eggs and poultry. That would be a very serious factor. For reasons already given, colonies on the other side of the globe are not likely to do very much. Africa is in a similar position, and Asia is out of the question. We are evidently in for an era of high prices. Many poultry-keepers forget that this may be harmful. They appear to think that to force up prices is the way to success. But I would again point out that there is a limit, which probably has almost been reached, and that further advance in values must have the effect of checking consumption. Therefore, we must set ourselves to prevent what would have a most disastrous influence, and ultimately lead to a great fall in sale and prices as a result of reduced demand.

WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

Under the conditions here named it is evident that the United Kingdom must, in the future, depend more upon its own resources than has been necessary in the past. Heretofore we have had available supplies from the greater part of Europe to meet the needs of our people for a lower class of the trade, without which it would have been impossible for consumption of eggs and poultry to have increased to the extent which has marked the last fifteen to twenty years. These products now hold a place in the food of our people to an extent which at one time was regarded as scarcely possible. And all the signs are that, unless checked by inflation of prices, the growth in the near future will be accelerated more rapidly. Fortunately the rise in values

of foodstuffs has been more than compensated by increased returns, so that the margin of profit has been well maintained. Any further advance in the cost of grain, &c., might be disastrous to poultry-keepers.

The prospects are bright indeed, if producers rise to their opportunities. But these will not be realised unless all concerned set themselves determinedly and persistently rapidly to increase production and improve the methods of marketing. In this work every section of the kingdom must share. English farmers and poultry-keepers should set themselves to meet

the demand for near-by and, therefore, higher qualities of eggs and poultry. A good deal has already been done, but only a modicum of what might be. In this work Wales, which has been very laggard, may by its position share to a very large extent. Ireland has done nobly, and with the general adoption of better systems of marketing will reap a yet greater benefit. I can see no reason why her production should not be advanced by fifty per cent. Scotland is now coming into line, and we look to that country to quadruple her supplies within the next five years.

WHO'S WHO IN THE POULTRY WORLD.

MISS CAREY.

A MOST successful exhibitor is the lady whose name appears above. The evolutionary process is interesting. Starting about fifteen years ago with



MISS CAREY

(Photo by the Dover Street Studios, Ltd., London, W.).

only back-yard accommodation, the initial experience was gained with a few birds kept for several years, but successfully so. About 1904 a visit to India necessitated clearing out the entire stock. Returning eighteen months later, Miss Carey turned again to her old hobby and determined to

conduct operations on a larger scale and on business lines, inclusive of exhibiting. Selection was made of Black, White, and Buff Orpingtons from leading yards, and from the first success followed speedily, which has continued to the present, as the records of the past season tell; so much so, in fact, that the sale of birds has rapidly grown. To the stock named above was added Mr. Horbury's stud of Reynolds White Orpingtons, regarded as among the finest known. The yards at Toynton Rectory, Spilsby, now occupy over ten acres, and it is the intention shortly considerably to increase the area.

Whilst Miss Carey has won fame as an exhibitor with the breeds named, these do not absorb her sole attention. The blue ideal has fascinated her, and an attempt is being made to produce a true blue, instead of the dull greys so often seen. Last year a White Faverolle was produced, and also a Buff Faverolle, but the latter, at any rate, has not yet been perfected sufficiently to become recognised among exhibition varieties. The former, however, has much to recommend it. Exhibition points are not everything, in Miss Carey's judgment, nor does she approve of the rage for size to which some judges attach so much importance. She believes that poultry, as other animals, should be judged as to points in conformity with the leading economic quality, and not merely for that which is of lesser value.

MR. G. MEREDITH DOBSON.

ALTHOUGH it is only during the last two years that Mr. G. Meredith Dobson's name has become very widely known in the poultry world, he has been interested in the industry ever since he was twelve years old. After leaving Rossall School, near Fleetwood, in 1902, he entered the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, where for four years he studied both theoretical and practical agriculture in all its branches, an excellent training for a poultry-keeper, and the ultimate possessor of one of the largest exhibition poultry farms in the kingdom. In 1906 Mr. Dobson, in conjunction with his brother, Mr. Wilfred Dobson, started a small, but excellently-equipped, poultry farm at Cirencester, which was generously placed at the

disposal of the College authorities, who gladly availed themselves of the opportunity, and encouraged the students to visit the farm regularly.

It was soon found, however, that the farm was much too small—it was about an acre and a half in extent—and a move was made later to the North of England, where was established the Bolton Model Poultry Farm at Westhoughton. For four years it has been evolving, until to-day Mr. G. Meredith Dobson and his brother are the owners of one of the finest and most up-to-date poultry farms in the kingdom. They possess some of the best stock in the country, but as a full description of the farm



MR. GEO. MEREDITH DOBSON.

[Photo by Spink, Brighton.]

will shortly appear in these columns it is unnecessary to give any particulars.

For two and a half years Mr. G. Meredith Dobson was Chairman of Brown, Dobson, and Co., Ltd., proprietors of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD. His expert knowledge and his keenness in the subject of poultry-keeping have been of the utmost value in the conduct of the RECORD, and to him is due in a large measure the success which has been attained.

Mr. Dobson is a keen sportsman, as well as an ardent poultry-keeper. He is particularly interested in motoring, riding, and golf. He is, among other things, the happy possessor of the finest cob in Lancashire, one that is the envy of the whole district.

THE AMATEUR EXHIBITOR.

By W. M. ELKINGTON.

THE fascination of breeding poultry for exhibition may be realised from the fact that there are something like 700 poultry shows held in the United Kingdom every year, from the Crystal Palace with about 420 classes down to little shows with two or three classes held in remote country places. The poultry Fancy began in a small way, and it has increased by leaps and bounds, until at the present time one can scarcely find a small town that has not its association of fanciers and holds its annual show. What is the cause of this? To some extent it may be the possibility of realising substantial profit, for nearly every amateur takes up fancy poultry-breeding in the hope of breeding a valuable exhibition specimen, though comparatively few realise this ambition. Certainly there are possibilities of making large sums of money, as we shall show, but it is not this alone that influences amateurs in taking up this hobby, for such it really is, but rather the interesting nature of the work of breeding fancy live-stock that appeals to hundreds of people in town and country. Exhibition breeding is not confined alone to country dwellers, although fanciers of this class naturally have the best chance. But in all the large industrial centres, and even in the suburbs of London, scores of exhibition poultry-breeders are to be found, some of whom contrive to produce winners at the largest shows.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

To be successful in the poultry Fancy one must have a natural inclination for the work. To go into it as an experienced amateur in the hope of making money may lead to serious disappointment, for a few mistakes and a little ill-luck often upset the whole of one's calculations, whereas some who have commenced in quite a modest fashion, and have gained valuable experience in the course of a few years, have, aided by a little luck, perhaps, developed into successful fanciers, and have built up valuable strains that have turned out veritable gold-mines. For it must be remembered that whatever profit may be secured in this branch of poultry-keeping does not come so much from the prizes won but from eggs and birds sold. One must exhibit and gain a high reputation for a strain before one can demand a successful price for produce; but when reputation as a breeder has been earned one can count upon making the hobby pay its way, and perhaps a little more. Those who take up the Fancy merely for the sake of winning prizes will find the hobby somewhat expensive, for unless winners can be bred they must be bought, at any cost from £10 to £50 each, and though some experienced professionals contrive to secure a good return by sending large teams of first-class specimens to the shows week after week, the average amateur is exceedingly lucky if he can cover his entry fees and travelling expenses with the prizes won. The sums offered as prizes vary at different shows, the amounts given at some of the largest exhibitions being 40s. for first, 30s. for second, 20s. for third, and 10s. for fourth, for an entry fee of from 6s. to 8s.; but at the smaller shows the average rate is 10s. for first, 5s. for second, and 2s. 6d. for third, the entry fee being 1s. 6d. or 2s. As the railway expenses on each bird amount to 1s. or 2s., according to distance, it will be seen that unless at

least a second prize can be won at each of these small shows one cannot do more than cover the expenses, and in these days of keen competition many beginners have to send their birds out time after time without winning more than a "commended" card. However, experience in exhibiting can only be gained by sending birds to compete with those of more skilled fanciers, and it is naturally of great advantage if the owner can go to the show and compare them side by side with others. The faults of a bird are very often overlooked until it is seen alongside a better specimen, and it is of great benefit to visit the shows and see the class of birds that are exhibited, and notice the manner in which they are shown, so that an idea may be formed as to what points are needed in our own birds. Many amateurs, who have probably never visited a poultry show in their lives, send birds that have no earthly chance of winning a prize, and in many cases they send them without even such preparation as wiping the legs. This is utter folly and a waste of money, and we strongly advise our readers not to enter a bird for show unless they believe it to be a fairly good specimen of its breed, as compared with other show birds; and, if they do enter it, to subject it to some necessary preparation, as we shall presently advise.

A FASCINATING STUDY.

The breeding and exhibiting of fancy poultry is a study in itself, and it would be impossible to do justice to it in the space at our command, so that, as we are writing primarily for amateurs and beginners, we must content ourselves by telling them what they ought to know. In the first place, everyone who embarks in the Fancy should know that each breed has its own standard of points, usually regulated by a club formed to look after its interests, or by the Poultry Club, the titular governing body of the Fancy, so that every fancier should study the points of the breed he keeps. Next, it is necessary to understand that although like does not necessarily produce like, one must not expect to breed a show specimen from mediocre stock. The principles of breeding, with their numerous ramifications, would require a special volume to describe fully, but we must endeavour to explain that strain is of more importance in breeding fancy stock than in any other branch of the poultry industry. Strain, indeed, is everything, and we can best describe a strain as a family that has been closely bred for generations in order to fix certain characteristics. Some people condemn the principle of inbreeding, but in this connection it is absolutely indispensable, and if we were to import unrelated cockerels every year we would never be able to depend upon reproducing any external trait. Nevertheless inbreeding is useless unless you have some useful characteristics to fix, and it will not be of any service if the stock is got together from different sources. Its value can best be realised when possessing birds that excel in some particular points, for by means of inbreeding these points may be reproduced and established, whereas by indulging in experimental matings of unrelated stock they would probably be lost altogether.

HOW TO COMMENCE.

The surest and best way for the amateur to make a start is to purchase a ready-mated small

breeding-pen from a fancier who can be relied upon to give good value. We may buy stock birds at any price, but it would be ridiculous to advise a beginner to expend a large sum of money at first, so that we will put the limit at £5 for a male and three or four females. For this sum we must not expect to purchase winners at large shows, and if we went to some of the large professional or first-class amateur breeders we would probably secure quite inferior birds compared with what a small breeder would sell for the same price, so that in a case of this kind we often think better value can be obtained from one who is not in the habit of selling the higher-priced birds, though at the same time a breeder of winners at the smaller shows. If we are fortunate enough in securing a pen of birds that will produce some chickens good enough to win minor prizes we may safely stick to the same strain and mate to the best of our knowledge concerning the particular variety kept.

BREEDING PROBLEMS.

Another important matter for every amateur to know something of is the principle of double mating. This may be briefly described as the mating of separate pens to produce cockerels and pullets respectively, and it has arisen from the fact that by its means more perfect specimens can be bred than by mating up one pen to produce both sexes, although it is naturally a more extravagant method. For instance, in breeding cockerels we would mate a good standard male with females of a cockerel strain, and favouring the males somewhat in colour and markings, whilst in breeding pullets the best standard females would be mated with a male of a pullet strain, favouring the hens in the same way.

SELECTING A BREED.

Many people ask which is the best breed for an amateur to take up, but with certain reservations it is always desirable to allow a beginner to be guided by his own fancy. Circumstances frequently influence us in favour of a particular breed, but the reservations we make are that the breed should be fairly popular, so that there may be plenty of chances of exhibiting it and a good demand for eggs and stock, and also that it be well established. In recent years beginners have been strongly advised to take up certain new and undeveloped varieties in which much has yet to be done before they are anything like perfect, but that advice has been dictated for trade purposes, to enable the exploiters of these new varieties to sell their wares, and we candidly advise our readers not to place any reliance on the statement that they have as good a chance of coming to the top with a new variety as skilled breeders of many years' standing. Time has always proved that it is the experienced man who comes out top in these matters. Consequently the amateur will do well to choose a variety that has become well established and can be relied upon to breed fairly true to type.

PREPARATION FOR EXHIBITION.

Now let us suppose that the amateur is in possession of some stock good enough to show and can breed birds of that class. Everyone who goes to a poultry show must be impressed with the manner in which the best birds are shown, and it is obvious that condition goes a long way in determining the awards. White and light-coloured fowls

are washed, darker-coloured birds glisten with condition, legs are scrubbed and polished, combs are oiled, and white lobes smoothed and improved in colour. All this is legitimate preparation, and though much of it is the result of finishing touches put on just before the bird goes to the show, excellence of condition largely depends upon the care lavished upon the fowl during the preceding weeks. For instance, exposure to the weather will very soon spoil the plumage of a bird, blister the lobes, and roughen the comb, so that partial or absolute protection must be provided for all valuable show specimens. This is not a difficult matter where covered runs are available, and even in close confinement birds can be kept in good health and condition with careful feeding and the provision of all necessities, such as green food and meat. Then, by preserving the beauty in this way, the finishing touches may be put on with little difficulty. The washing of a fowl is often regarded as an ordeal, but it only requires a little practice to become expert, and the great points are first of all to work the soap well among the feathers to remove all dirt, then to swill out every particle of soap in cooler water, and finally, after dipping the bird into water just coloured with blue and squeezing out as much moisture as possible, to dry the bird steadily before a good fire.

Darker-coloured birds do not need washing; but wiping over with a damp sponge will improve the gloss upon the plumage. Legs, however, must always be attended to, and before the bird goes to a show the shanks and feet should be washed and scrubbed with soap and hot water, afterwards being well dried and polished with sweet oil. In the case of white and yellow legs dirt beneath the scales frequently spoils the appearance, and to remove this it is a good plan to sharpen a piece of hard wood to a flat point, which can be passed beneath the scales to remove the dirt. The colour and appearance of the combs may be improved by rubbing them with the fingers dipped in sweet oil, and red faces, lobes, and wattles may be dealt with in the same way. White lobes, however, give more trouble, and if they have become discoloured it is necessary to commence treatment three or four weeks before the show, wiping them over with a piece of soft Turkey sponge dipped in tepid milk and water, and afterwards drying them and dusting over with violet powder. During this process the birds should be kept under cover, and it will be found that if they are shut up in a darkened building the texture of both comb and lobes will be greatly improved. The combs of young birds, particularly of the large-combed breeds, can be made to grow by the use of raw meat, which may be given while the birds are confined.

FAKING.

Amateurs must, however, recognise the line of demarcation between legitimate preparation and faking. The latter consists of removing feathers, using colouring matter for plumage, legs, comb, or lobes, and performing any operation intended to artificially improve the appearance. The dubbing of Gamecocks is an exception, and this is a perfectly legitimate proceeding. Exhibits that have been otherwise unlawfully interfered with, or those that may be shown in young bird classes and are believed to be over age, are invariably disqualified, and the owners may be inhibited from exhibiting

again for a considerable period. Amateurs as a rule do not perpetuate clever fakes, but through ignorance and inexperience they sometimes use colouring matter for the legs, or clip off feathers with a pair of scissors in such a manner that the judge can at once detect them, so that we strongly advise our readers not to attempt any more elaborate preparation than we have recommended. It is, however, necessary to train a bird for exhibition purposes before it is sent to a show, and this is a more important matter than many people suppose, because it frequently happens that a good bird shown by a novice loses its chances by refusing to show itself off and by crouching in a corner or fluttering about the pen when the judge comes to examine it. This can be avoided if the bird is confined in an exhibition pen, or even in a coop, for about ten days before the show and encouraged to eat out of the hand.

SELECTING SHOWS.

All that the would-be exhibitor need do when making arrangements for showing his birds is to look through the show advertisement columns of his poultry paper and write for schedules of some of the most likely shows. A beginner will always do well to commence showing at local events, so that he may go and see for himself how his bird compares with others, and in addition it will be good policy to confine his attention to the smaller shows, where he is more likely to meet competitors of his own class. In the various schedules he will find particulars of classification and prizes to be won, so that after selecting the show that offers the best chances of success he may proceed to make his entries on a form enclosed in each schedule, in which the variety and age of the exhibits are stated. This must be sent to the secretary of the show, together with the entry fee, by a certain date, and in due course the exhibitor will receive labels to be attached to his package. Show birds should always be sent away in wicker hampers lined with hay, of which many patterns exist. Some are made with compartments to hold two, three, or four birds, whilst small circular baskets for single birds can be bought at 2s. or 3s. each. Exhibits should never be sent to a show in nailed boxes, and for the sake of convenience, as well as for safety, nothing will be found better than a hamper.

DISPATCHING EXHIBITION BIRDS.

Birds should be dispatched carriage paid by passenger train in time to reach the show either on the night before judging commences or early on the same morning, according to the regulations in the schedule. Whilst at the show they are under the control of the officials, and will be penned, packed up again, and dispatched in due course, so as to reach home again the day after the show. If the exhibitor chooses to take them to the show and pen them himself he will be allowed to do so in some cases, especially at the smaller shows. Prizes are generally paid a short time after the show. On arrival home it is not advisable to turn a bird out into the open, as it will be more liable to take cold after having been kept for some time in warm rooms. The best plan is to keep show birds in covered runs so long as they are required for exhibition; but we do not advise amateurs to keep birds intended for breeding in this way for very long.

DISPATCHING EGGS FOR HATCHING.

By GEORGE SCOTT.

DURING the next three months many thousands of sittings of eggs will be distributed by rail and post throughout the kingdom, and to those who are contemplating embarking upon this branch of the poultry business for the first time, a few words of advice on the best methods of packing and dispatching eggs will no doubt prove useful. It is very annoying to the purchaser and equally so to the vendor when eggs are broken in transit. Whether the former may have invested the modest sum of five shillings or the princely one of two guineas in a sitting of eggs, his language on opening the box with infinite care and uncovering its contents with visions of Palace winners in embryo, only to find a collection of broken and cracked eggs, will emulate the atmosphere on a summer's day both in warmth and colour.

Wherever possible, it is advisable to send eggs by rail, as they invariably reach their destination more quickly and in better condition than is the case when the parcel post is requisitioned. Ad-



[Copyright.]

ORDINARY CARDBOARD BOX FOR EGGS.

Each egg is wrapped in paper and placed on its end in a corrugated paper section. A sheet of corrugated paper is placed top and bottom to minimise shocks.

mirable as are the arrangements of our parcel post service, it is hardly a suitable medium for the conveyance of eggs for hatching, and anyone who makes use of it for such a purpose need express no surprise if the eggs, however carefully they may be packed, arrive in a chaotic condition. In dispatching by rail and by post (although in both

cases the travelling is done by passenger train) there is this essential difference, that in the former case the package, labelled with the nature of its contents, is plainly visible to the eye and may reasonably be expected to receive care in handling;



[Copyright.]

A PLAN OF PACKING THAT IS NOT RECOMMENDED.

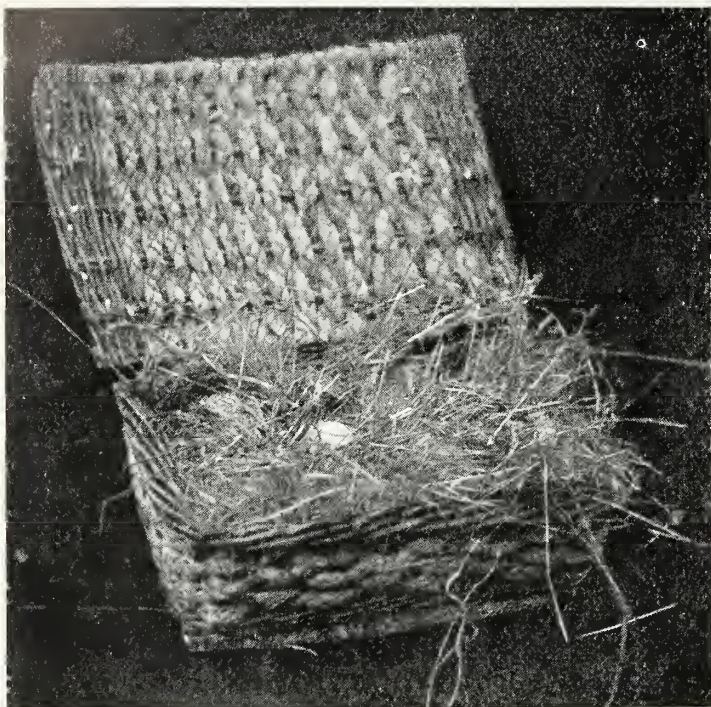
A soap or sweets box is sometimes used, in which the eggs, wrapped in paper or not, are placed on their sides in cut chaff or bran; breakages and injured germs frequently result.

in the latter case the box is packed indiscriminately in a hamper with a miscellaneous assortment of parcels, and therefore does not receive—nor can it be expected to receive—any special care. Any—one who has witnessed the manner in which these unwieldy hampers are bundled in and out of the luggage vans need seek no further for the cause of eggs being damaged when sent through the post. There are, however, certain obscure country places where there is no choice in the matter—the eggs must be sent by parcel post or not at all.

In many cases where eggs are sent by rail breakage is due to carelessness in packing, for if this is properly done nothing but gross carelessness and ill-usage on the part of the railway servants will cause the eggs to arrive in a damaged condition. Eggs for sitting should be packed in the divisional wood or cardboard boxes, which are easily obtainable from the appliance makers. Boxes of all kinds, shapes and dimensions, are used for the sake of cheapness, but such a "penny wise and pound foolish" policy is not to be advocated. It does not much matter whether wood or cardboard boxes are used, so long as a good, stout, well-made sample is obtained. I have used both with equally good results, though for very long journeys and in cold weather I prefer the former, as they afford more protection against frost.

A divisional box having been obtained, it may appear to the novice the simplest thing in the world to pack one egg in each compartment. Certainly, this is so, but the condition of the egg on arrival at its destination is largely dependent on the manner in which this packing is carried out. I find that returned infertiles generally arrive in a

more or less damaged condition, and while it may be that the railway officials do not exercise so much care over a returned box as they do on its outward journey, I believe that in the majority of instances the breakages are due to the eggs not being packed in a proper manner. Hay, chaff, or coarse bran may be used for packing, but I



[Copyright.]

AN EXCELLENT METHOD OF PACKING.

If eggs are wrapped in hay and packed in a basket or hamper safety is assured. The yielding nature of the materials used prevent injury to egg contents. One egg is seen uncovered.

generally use the latter. My method is to sprinkle a little bran in each compartment, so that the bottom of the box is well covered. Then wrap each egg carefully in a piece of soft paper and place it large end downwards in the box, taking care that it stands in the centre of its respective compartment and does not touch the wood. Pack bran firmly but carefully round the egg, so that it cannot move, fill the remaining space with the same material, and the lid can then be secured. The main points to be observed are: (1) That the eggs are firm and cannot be shaken about, (2) That they do not touch the sides of the box, special care being taken that the lid does not rest on the eggs. The lid of the box may be fastened on with cord or small screws, but on no account should it be nailed, as the jarring caused by this process would have a deleterious effect on the germs and probably spoil the hatch. Whatever method of fastening may be adopted, it is advisable to tie the box up with stout cord or string, not only as an additional security, but in order to facilitate handling during the journey.

One other precaution should be taken. The box must be labelled in large letters and in a prominent place, with some indication of the nature of its contents. Most egg boxes are printed in bold letters "Eggs with care," but it is advisable for anyone who dispatches sittings in any quantity to affix a specially-printed label bearing these words, or others of similar intent.

GUINEA FOWLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

THE edible qualities of guinea fowls are so excellent and there is so satisfactory a demand for them during certain seasons of the year, that it is very surprising that more attention is not devoted to this branch of industrial poultry-keeping. The raising of this class of poultry produce has never become at all popular in this country, although there is little doubt that when the conditions are favourable it is a very profitable and by no means difficult branch. The flesh of the guinea fowl is of exquisite flavour, closely resembling that of the pheasant. The body is plump and well proportioned, and the amount of bone and offal to flesh is comparatively small. It is unnecessary to fatten guinea fowls; in fact, the quality and flavour of the flesh is, in a large measure, ruined by so doing. Prices for good specimens range high, and they are mostly disposed of among the well-to-do, there being rarely any difficulty in obtaining from 3s. to 3s. 6d. each. Although seemingly costing a good deal, a guinea fowl is really a cheap dish, as it carries so large an amount of flesh and so small an amount of bone and offal. During the breeding season there is a fairly ready sale for the eggs at about 3s. per dozen, and this side of the industry is one that might be developed with advantage. There is always a very good demand for the eggs for consumption and they are a great delicacy. Their price averages about 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per dozen.



WRAPPING AN EGG IN HAY. [Copyright.]

A wisp of hay is taken, folded in half, and the egg inserted in the loop formed, as shown. Then the ends are folded over and wrapped round, making a complete covering. The eggs are packed on ends firmly.

It is always well to realise one's limitations as well as one's opportunities, and it is useless attempting to undertake this branch if one does not possess an abundance of space. Guinea fowls are exceedingly wild, and cannot thrive at all well in confinement. Keeping them in runs has been

tried over and over again; but in no case, so far as we are aware, has it succeeded. The adults soon become listless, while the chickens involve considerable difficulty in rearing, besides which they rarely grow up strong and healthy. An objection that many people have to guinea fowls is that they possess such an intensely disagreeable cry, the hen making a noise that is more like a rusty hinge squeaking than anything else.

Guinea fowls thrive best upon a medium soil, resting on a gravel sub-soil. Heavy clay is unsuitable and renders rearing extremely difficult; very light, sandy soil is likewise unsuitable, owing to the fact that it contains so small a proportion of animal or vegetable food. Upon a good soil guinea fowls are able to secure a large proportion of their own living, as they are excellent foragers, wandering miles in search of worms, grubs, insects, &c. They never seem to tire, and are probably the most active of all varieties of poultry.

Unlike ordinary poultry, guinea fowls are monogamous in habits, always mating in pairs, and thus an equal number of cocks to hens must be provided. The male bird remains with the same hen throughout the entire season and generally selects her again the following year. Guinea fowls seem to become peculiarly attached to one another, and we have known cases in which a hen has died early in the breeding season and the cock has remained faithful to her until the following year. If there should happen to be a greater number of hens than cocks the latter sometimes fertilise the eggs of the former, but they do not remain with them, returning at once to their special mates. Generally, however, if there are more hens the eggs from the extra number prove infertile.

The laying powers of guinea hens vary very greatly according to the strain, some being extremely prolific, producing as many as 100 or 110 eggs in a season. Cases are on record in which an individual hen has laid upwards of 120 and even 130 eggs in a season, but such birds are few and far between. As a general rule, provided the birds are well looked after, they can be depended upon to lay from 75 to 90 eggs in the twelve months. The hens usually commence to lay about the end of March or April, and the eggs should be removed each day as they are laid. This is not always an easy matter, however, as almost invariably places are selected for nests that are very difficult to discover. The hens are exceedingly shy and nervous birds, and they always choose a spot that is very securely hidden. When the nest is found, and if there are several eggs therein, a few should be removed, and one each day as more are laid, otherwise when the hen has produced a dozen or fifteen eggs she will want to sit. When they are regularly removed, however, she will continue laying. The early eggs should be placed under ordinary hens, quiet and steady birds being selected for the purpose. Later on in the season the guinea hen herself may be allowed to sit, and she invariably makes an excellent mother. The period of incubation is twenty-eight days, and during this time the hen should be disturbed as little as possible.

There is nothing special to note as to the feeding or the housing of the adult guinea fowls, as these points of management are similar to those employed for ordinary fowls. It is a mistake to allow the birds, as many do, to roost in the open at nights, since this reduces the egg supply, besides making the birds much wilder.

FANCIERS AND FANCY MATTERS.

By WILLIAM W. BROOMHEAD.

A Lady Fancier—A Specialist on Orpingtons—White Turkeys—More New Breeds—Improved Classification—Some Future Shows.

A LADY FANCIER.

Among recruits to the poultry Fancy few can claim to have come right to the front rank in exhibition circles as quickly with any single breed as has Mrs. Frank Cooper (of Culland Hall, Derbyshire) with rosecombed Rhode Island Reds. It is little more than twelve months since she began to keep Fancy stock, yet in this short time she has established a grand flock of Reds. Until the Palace, where her cockerel won cup for the best Rhode Island Red in the show and silver medal for the best cockerel of that breed, her winners have been reared on her model poultry-farm, which, by the way, is eight miles from the nearest railway station. In order to improve her present stock Mrs. Cooper purchased the Manchester winner at the record price of £20; and it is her intention to establish one of the finest cockerel-breeding strains in the world with the rosecombed variety. A cockerel which she bred last year won second prizes at Bingley and Manchester. The Culland Hall birds, however, are not exhibited up and down the country; they are sent to a few of the big shows only.

A SPECIALIST ON ORPINGTONS.

The remarks of a specialist are generally greedily devoured by those who are interested in the special breed to which they refer, hence I reprint the following tit-bit from a recent letter that one (of Orpington fowl fame) sent to a contemporary: " . . . At some of the leading shows this year Whites won for colour only, Blacks for type only, and it would puzzle anyone to say why some of the Buffs won. . . . The Orpington judging, taking it as a whole, has been very erratic and unsatisfactory this season; and as a friend of mine remarked in a letter to me the other day, 'It seems to me half of the judges of Orpingtons of the present day will not, or cannot, place the birds in order of merit. Unless a better selection is made another year for the great shows the breed is bound to suffer very much in popularity.' " It is a rub at some of us who have judged Orpingtons this past season "at some of the leading shows"! Possibly, if asked when the judging of Buffs gave the greatest satisfaction, that writer would answer, "At the leading shows of 1908 and at the Palace in 1909." During the former year Orpingtons at two of the best shows of the back-end were judged by one gentleman, and a third by his brother, while in 1909 the club show was judged by the fancier who wrote the letter! As to his friend's remarks, "A breed is bound to suffer very much in popularity," not from supposed erratic judging, but when one fancier wins all along the line. His friend will see the force of this remark when he has been in the Fancy a few more years.

WHITE TURKEYS.

For, I believe, the third year in succession, the classes scheduled for White turkeys at the Crystal Palace Show were cancelled. It is reasonable to conclude, therefore, that the variety is not

a very popular one with turkey-breeders in this country. Why this should be so is not apparent to the few poultry-keepers who go in for it; and it is just possible that the good points of the White turkey have been overlooked. Within a mile or so of my house there is a flock of Whites kept by Colonel Trueman; and since I have had ample opportunities of seeing the birds I am fully convinced that they are in every way as hardy as the popular bronze. During a recent visit to Reading I drove over to Hartley Court and inspected the White turkeys kept there by Captain de Bathe, who has, I believe, the largest flock of the variety in this country. In conversation with Captain de Bathe I learnt that the flesh of the White is of excellent flavour, and that it is even superior to that of a well-finished Bronze. The White, I was assured, is a "money-maker" all through, it being in every way hardy, foraging well, and needing but little attention after passing the critical period. Its feathers, moreover, realise half-a-crown a pound as against threepence a pound for those of the Bronze, while parts of its fluff fetch as much as a sovereign a pound. It would appear, therefore, to be a profitable variety to be taken up by those poultry-keepers who have the necessary range for turkey breeding.

MORE NEW BREEDS.

Among the novelties exhibited at the late Palace Show—novelties other than those for which special classification was provided—were a Partridge Orpington and a Blue Duckwing Wyandotte. There is hope yet for those fanciers who have not yet given it a name! The surprise to me is that judges are able to spot these birds, since in both cases the exhibits at the Palace received a commended card. In a sense it is a pity, since it is apt to encourage cross-breeding. I have been doing a little in that direction this past season, and besides getting a fair percentage of chickens of the variety I was after, the same mating produced half-a-dozen rose-combed Black Orpington pullets and quite a decent White-Laced Black Wyandotte cockerel! There is not a drop of Orpington blood in either side of the parents, yet the pullets are worth running on. As to the cockerel, he had been named as the Palace winner by those of my friends who saw him; yet, sad to relate, he was one of a couple killed for table. It was a mistake, of course, the killing of him; but I always execute my poultry in a hurry and at night time, and I just grabbed the wrong one. However, to return to the new varieties, there is still a wide opening for those poultry-keepers who are seeking for fame in this direction; and if an existing specialist club will not take the novelty in hand, it is always open for the originator to guarantee a class or two for them at the Palace. They could not make a worse display than did the two classes for White Indian Game or the class for Spangled Wyandottes at last year's event!

IMPROVED CLASSIFICATION.

At a meeting of the Pekin Bantam Club, held at the Crystal Palace, one of the resolutions adopted was that the hon. secretary approach the Dairy and the Crystal Palace Shows with a view to improved classification and the appointment of club judges. At the Birmingham meeting of the Modern Game and Game Bantam Club a somewhat similar resolution was adopted—it was decided to ask the committees of Altrincham, Hayward's Heath, Manchester,

Bristol, York, and Plymouth shows to provide four classes for Modern Game, and to allow the club to nominate its own judge free of expense to the show, or that the club should be allowed to select the judge from those appointed by the show committee to officiate, the club in return to make a special appeal to each member to support the classes with at least two entries, and also the club to give two special prizes, each of five shillings, to be competed for by members only. The Pekin Bantam Fancy has been improving much of late, and since Mr. Fred Entwisle (of the Firs, Calder Grove, near Wakefield) has been in office as secretary, the ranks of the club have been increasing in a most satisfactory manner. It is only natural, therefore, that the club wishes to see the breed well represented at such important fixtures as the Dairy and the Palace; and to do this there is no reason why at least two classes for each variety should not fill well. I hope to see this improved classification next season. As for the Modern Game, it has been dropping into the background of recent times. At shows, however, which have catered somewhat generously for the breed a good entry has not been forthcoming, and except perhaps at Birmingham, Kendal, and the Palace, it has been rare to find a representative gathering of Modern Game. This resolution of the club, therefore, should be doubly welcome by those fanciers who keep Game.

SOME FUTURE SHOWS.

In addition to the "Royal" Show at Norwich in June (some particulars of which have been already published in these columns), poultry exhibitions for the near future, the dates of which are worth noting in one's diary, are as follows: Belfast, May 24, 25, and 26; Edinburgh, June 23; and Rotherham, Yorks, July 26, 27, and 28. The first-named event is an old-established one, and is held annually under the auspices of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society, of which Mr. Kenneth MacRae, of Balmoral, Belfast, is the secretary. I hear on good authority that competition at the forthcoming event will be thrown open to the United Kingdom and not confined to Ireland, as was the case last year. Mr. A. T. Hutchinson, 16, George Street, Edinburgh, writes to me that he intends to have a large poultry show in connection with the Edinburgh and Midlothian Grand Coronation Fête and Floral Gala, of which he is the organising secretary. The event is booked for the third full week in June at the Midlothian Artillery Park, Murrayfield, but the poultry show will be held on the Friday only. The third fixture mentioned (Rotherham) is the annual show of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, of which Mr. John Maughan, Blake Street, York, is the secretary. The 1910 show of this society was a splendid affair; and as the poultry entry has increased each year since a good classification was put on, there should be a record entry this time. There should also be a grand show of poultry at Bolton on July 29, since the recently-appointed secretary, Mr. W. G. French, of 14, Acresfield, is a most enthusiastic fancier and hon. secretary of the Lancashire Branch of the Poultry Club, one of the strongest county branches in the country. Other exhibitions already fixed are the Shropshire and West Midland Agricultural Show at Wem, on August 4, secretary, Mr. Philip Lee, and the Denbighshire and Flintshire Show at Wrexham, on August 11, secretary, Mr. T. Welsby, 9, Wellington Road, Rhyl.

THE SITTING HEN.

By FRED W. PARTON.

IT is not many years ago since the sitting hen reigned supreme, but to-day we find that the rivalry of the incubator has shaken greatly her position. At the same time there are many poultry-keepers who still prefer the natural method of hatching. One large breeder whom I know well in Yorkshire refuses to have an incubator on his farm, and he states that if he cannot hatch his chickeris in the natural way, then he will not hatch them at all. So

sufficient moisture is supplied to the eggs, the results are bound to be unsatisfactory. The same thing applies, however, in the case of the sitting-hen, and if she or the eggs beneath her are neglected good results cannot possibly be achieved. By far the best plan is to combine the two methods, using hens when they are available and an incubator when they are scarce.

It is frequently contended that the best way to treat the sitting hen is to allow her perfect freedom so far as the selection of her nest is concerned, as she always selects the most suitable spot. This I am greatly inclined to doubt, since sometimes



A CONVENIENT METHOD OF FEEDING AND EXERCISING SITTING HENS. [Copyright.]
Each bird is secured by the leg to a stake in the ground by a piece of string two or three feet long.

far as my own experience goes in the matter, which is considerable, I do not think that there is any material difference in the hatching results, or in the health and vigour of the chickens in after life. I have employed both methods, and I do not think there is anything to choose between them so far as the actual results are concerned. Of course, if an incubator is worked badly, if the temperature within the egg drawer varies a great deal, if the machine is subjected to shocks and jars, or if in-

she selects the most unlikely place. When a hen sets herself and proudly reappears after three weeks with a goodly batch of chickens, the fact is widely circulated, but how many hens are there who set themselves, or "steal their nest" as it is sometimes termed, and bring off no chickens? The results of these latter exploits are never recorded. I have known hens set themselves at the top of a haystack, where heat was excessive and where moisture was lacking; they have been found in the

copper of a washhouse, and many other places which the most ardent partisan of the natural method could not say was suitable.

Why does a hen desert her nest? Frequently owing to the irritation caused by the presence of parasites; sometimes owing to the nest being unsuitable and the general surroundings of an uncomfortable nature; sometimes owing to the reduction of the temperature of the hen's body by unsuitable feeding; and sometimes owing to her being unduly disturbed. Consequently, when attending to the requirements of the sitting hen, the foregoing points, among others, should be duly considered. Occasionally hens are allowed to sit in the nest in which they have been accustomed to lay, and they are thus disturbed by other hens desiring to use the nest. This often leads to trouble. Sometimes a hen refuses to sit when moved, and in this case the difficulty may partially be overcome by putting a door, or some other contrivance, in front of the nest to prevent the intrusion of the other inmates of the house. When the conditions allow, a place should be chosen where the hen can enjoy perfect quietude, that is quietude so far as removal from the midst of the general flock of poultry is concerned. This is easy of accomplishment when a separate box is provided for each bird. The box should be sufficiently large to prevent discomfort to the hen, for unless she is comfortable she is very likely to be restless. A handy size for a nest-box is eighteen inches square and twenty inches high.

Cleanliness is a very important matter, and this is greatly facilitated by having the nest-box made without a permanently fixed bottom. Under certain conditions, however, it is advisable to have a bottom, and when this is the case, it is an excellent plan to make it hinged at the back, with a latch in the front, so that when the nest has to be remade, at the expiration of three weeks, all that is necessary to do is to unhook the front latch, and thus when the box is raised the bottom swings open on its hinges. In this manner all the contents can be removed from the corners of the box, which is a difficult matter when the bottom is permanently fixed. Even when cleanliness is observed it is sometimes a very difficult matter to keep parasites in check, but it is almost impossible when the hen's surroundings tend to harbour these pests. Parasites not only cause great annoyance to the hen, but they are transferred to the newly-hatched chickens, which severely hampers their growth and well-being from the outset. It will thus be seen how important it is to keep down these vermin, as once they attack a hen, unless strict measures for their destruction are adopted, they will multiply at an alarming rate. If their presence on the hen's body is suspected, she should be well dusted with pyrethrum powder, taking care to get the powder to the very roots of the feathers.

Fresh air in close proximity to the eggs is a factor too frequently neglected. After a certain stage in the development of the embryo, air is constantly being drawn, by means of the allantois, through the minute pores of the shell. It must be apparent to all that if the air entering the egg is impure the best results cannot be expected. The death of chickens on the nineteenth or twentieth day, when they are quite fully formed, is the cause of much loss and annoyance, but without knowing all the conditions, the method of management of the sitting hen, and the age of the parent stock,

it is impossible to give any specific reason. But may not inattention to ventilation and pure air surrounding the eggs be one cause of the trouble? Ventilation holes should be bored at the front, back, and side of the nest-box, close up to the top, so that the hen is free from a draught, and this will be found helpful in the direction named. Another matter worthy of consideration in connection with fresh air is to see that the eggs are perfectly clean, so that none of the shell pores are closed. Should an egg get broken, the hen foul her nest, or return with muddy feet, the eggs naturally become soiled, and they cannot allow the necessary inlet of pure air. Dirty eggs are very often addled. Should any such mishaps occur the eggs should be removed from the nest and washed in warm water, heated to about 100 degrees, and the nest remade if necessary.

An up-turned sod, or a shovelful of moist earth, with a thin covering of oat or wheat straw, is the best material of which to make the nest. Eggs undergoing incubation should be cooled daily, this being necessary for the strengthening of the embryo. The tendency with the majority of beginners is to allow insufficient time to elapse before the hen returns to her duty. During the ordinary hatching season a quarter of an hour may be allowed during the first ten days, while after this period, until the time of hatching, twenty or even thirty minutes is not too long an exposure. Most of the vital organs have developed by the tenth day, and for their sustenance and nourishment plenty of pure oxygen is absolutely imperative.

Feeding the broody hen is not a difficult matter, since hard corn only should be employed, such as oats, wheat, barley, or maize. If a thermometer is placed under the top of the thigh, or beneath the wing, the hen's bodily heat will be found to be up to 102 degrees or 103 degrees, and it is undesirable to give food calculated to reduce this temperature. Hard corn maintains the heat much longer than does soft food, for the latter, being more easily digested, has a cooling tendency. For the same reason green food, so essential at all other periods of a hen's life, should not be given to any great extent. It is sometimes argued that soft food, with the addition of vegetables, is the most suitable dietary, because owing to the hen being debarred from any form of bodily exercise, hard corn cannot be thoroughly masticated. But it must be remembered that only one feed a day is provided, and even that is only partaken of very sparingly. We have never found any digestive troubles arising in this direction; but it is very necessary, however, to have a plentiful supply of oyster shell and flint grit, so that the hen may help herself to as much as nature requires.

As Others See Us.

A correspondent of the Melbourne *Australasian* thus criticises the Dairy Show:

I was greatly disappointed the way the poultry were penned. There were two decks, one on top of the other. The lower lot one could not see, the light was so bad. Again, the passages between the rows were so narrow that if one stopped to look at a bird one blocked up the passage, and then got brushed out of the way.

Considering what poultry and pigeons have done for the Islington fixture, the new Gilbey Hall ought to have been given up to them.

A FRESH-AIR POULTRY-HOUSE.

A BULLETIN recently issued by the College of Agriculture at Cornell University discusses poultry-houses, and the introductory paragraphs state :

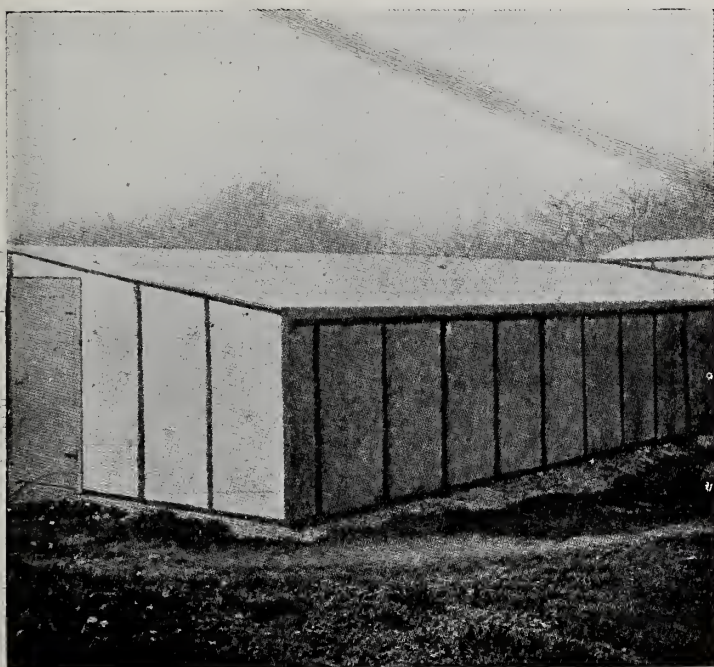
Poultry-keeping is an exacting business. The four corner-stones on which success rests are :

- (1) Suitable buildings, properly located.
- (2) The right fowls, skilfully fed.
- (3) Good fowls, carefully bred.
- (4) Facility and ability to hatch and rear chickens.

To these should be added a willingness to work, a love of the business, and marketing ability. Not the least in importance is the question of constructing the poultry plant.

THE POULTRY-HOUSE ESSENTIALS.

Buildings for poultry should be economical of construction, convenient, comfortable, dry, cheerful, well-



BACK VIEW OF HOUSE, SHOWING ABSENCE OF EAVES AND A JOINT MADE IN ROOFING FABRIC.

ventilated, and sanitary. Unsatisfactory egg-yields are frequently traceable directly to the conditions under which fowls are housed. Moreover, many of our most troublesome poultry diseases are due primarily to improperly located and poorly-constructed poultry-houses. Such unsatisfactory results rest on the fact that egg-production is dependent on the fowls' physical condition. Fowls must be kept in good health if they are to be profitable.

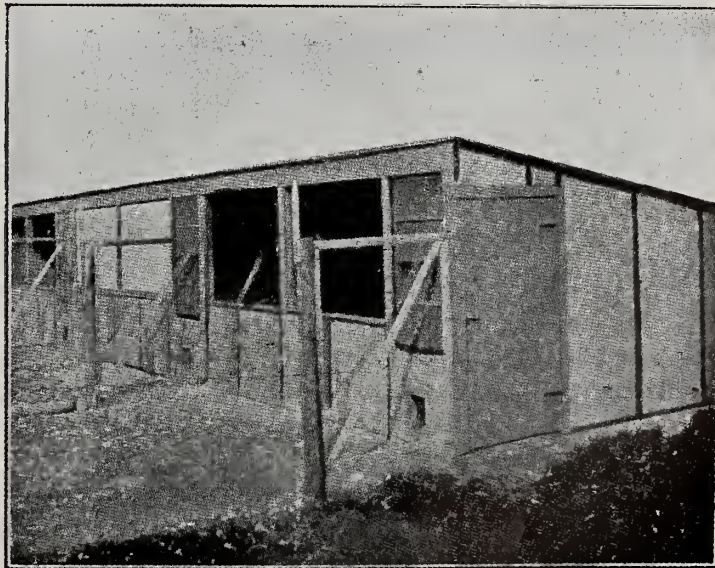
That is an authoritative statement as to the requirements of a good poultry-house. We built a new poultry-house last year, says the writer of an extremely interesting article in the new American paper, *Profitable Poultry*, and, believing strongly in fresh air and sunshine, we planned to get an adequate supply of those essentials. The house has been in use a full year, and we cannot find a single fault in it ; there is no one thing in which it is lacking, there is nothing which we would change if we were planning to build another.

This house is 42ft. long by 12ft. wide, and is divided into three pens of 12ft. by 14ft. each ; it gives adequate house-room for one hundred head of fowls. Three yards 17ft. wide each extend South

for 100ft., and give an outdoors run to the fowls, which never go out of these pens and yards till they are sold off to market.

The house is 7ft. high in front and 5ft. high at the back, these heights being from top of sills to top of plates. It has the common "shed" roof, sloping North, and has no eaves ; the water from the roof runs down the back wall instead of dropping from eaves. The reason for this feature is that there is great difficulty in making a house absolutely tight at the back where there are eaves, and no good thing is accomplished by them. We may build a building which is perfectly tight at the back when built, but one winter's or summer's swelling and shrinking will open crevices at the joint, and then there are pernicious draughts. With this eaveless roof there is no possibility of opening where back and roof join. The roofing fabric is put up and down on the back, the strips being carried on to top of roof, cemented down, then tacked securely ; the first strip of roofing laid on the roof is brought down 5in. so that the nails reach into the plate ; the lap is cemented, then nailed securely, then the lap is covered with a coat of cement. This makes a joint which is absolutely wind and water-tight. The photo of the back of the house clearly shows the cemented joints of the roofing fabric, which covers both roof and walls.

The entire floor is of concrete, the sills are laid in concrete, and the floor is flush with the top of sills. It will not be easy for rats to get through a cement floor which is about 2in. thick, made of one part best Portland cement and six parts sharp, coarse sand. The space covered by the house and foundation walls was excavated, because we wanted the loam for grading and wanted to dump into the excavation a lot of small stones which had been turned up in ploughing the garden. These stones were of all sizes, from as small as an egg up to as large as a half-bushel measure ; the larger ones were put into the foundation walls and

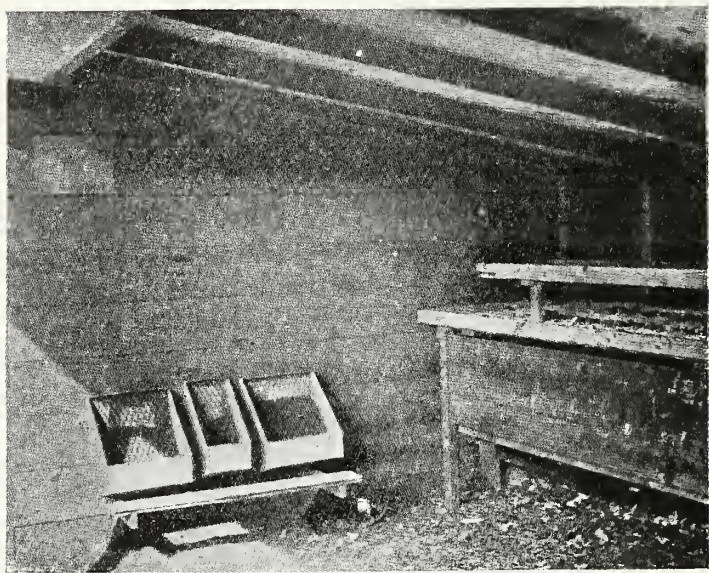


FRONT VIEW OF HOUSE, SHOWING YARDS.

the others filled in the centre ; the top was levelled off with small stones and cinders, then coal ashes were wheeled on, levelled, then stamped down solid. This made an excellent surface for the concrete floor.

The sills, plates, and corner studs are of 2in. by 4in. scantling ; the intermediate and partition

studs are of 2in. by 3in. scantling; the rafters are of 2in. by 5in. scantling, and are set 2ft. apart on centres. The roof boards are of tongued and grooved spruce, dressed on one side. When we were talking with the timber merchant, getting prices, he told us he had a carload of this dressed spruce from which he could sell us what we wanted for £5 10s. a thousand, if he could draw it to us direct from the car. As common hemlock was worth over £5, we at once decided the roof would be that much better if made of the better boards, so



INTERIOR OF HOUSE, SHOWING PERCHES, DROP-BOARD, AND GENERAL INSIDE FITTINGS.

bought the spruce. With this tight roof no wind can blow up through cracks and "lift" the roof-covering and gradually loosen it from the nails.

The walls and partitions are boarded up with old fence boards of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. second-growth pine, which we got by tearing down a line-fence between our lot and the neighbour on the West. It was an unsightly, ramshackle old fence, and we told the neighbour that we would like to remove it and put a good steel-wire fence on steel posts there; he told us to go ahead and do it, and we got the old boards in that way.

The roof, walls, and partitions between pens are covered with a good ready-roofing, and no air can circulate through the house excepting from the front. The front is boarded up 3ft., excepting that the window space is some 8in. less; there is one window in the front of each pen, and a slide door below the window gives the birds access to the yards.

The interior of the pens is as simple as possible; the less furniture, with complete efficiency, the better. The floor space is all available for exercise room, excepting that a platform about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. square is set just below the water fountains, which hang against the front wall, and a small box, say, 8in. square, is set for a step up on to the platform running along in rear of the banks of nests.

The dropping-boards are 12ft. long by 3ft. wide, and are set up 3ft. from the floor. There are two roost-poles, set 15in. apart on centres, and being 11ft. long the ends come 6in. within the outside of the droppings-boards. The roost supports are hinged to the back wall studs, so that the roosts can be swung up against the rafters and hooked up out of

the way for cleaning off the droppings. A hook and screw-eye hold them up. The illustration of a pen interior shows the ends of the roosts, the dropping-boards, and the banks of nests beneath. It also shows the two food-hoppers which contain the dry mash, and the light platform for the birds to stand upon when eating from the hoppers.

The banks of nest-boxes stand upon horizontal arms set to hold them just below the dropping-boards, but leaving about 1in. space for ventilation. A door in front is hinged at top, and held closed by a button; this is opened to collect the eggs. The hens enter the nests from a platform along the rear, and the nests are so made that they are fairly secluded. Being exactly alike, there is little danger of two hens trying to get on one nest. There are two banks of four nests each to every pen, each nest being 14in. square and high.

The passage through the house is through 3ft. wide double-swinging gates between the pens, at the front, and a door from the grain room into the first pen and another door at the East end; a wheel-barrow can be wheeled through, in at one door and out through the other, which greatly facilitates the work of cleaning the house.

The chief part of the house is the open front, closed at night by hinged curtains of common muslin (cotton cloth), in cold weather, and open day and night eight months of the year. The curtain opening is 10ft. by 3ft. 9in., and that open space admits abundant fresh air and sunshine.

EGG - PRODUCTION IN CONFINEMENT.

THE production of eggs for home consumption by means of a few hens kept in a confined run is a subject that cannot fail to appeal to many thousands of English people, not only in small towns and country places, but also in the more populous centres where suitable accommodation is available. We make this proviso because we have no desire to encourage the keeping of fowls in tiny back-yards of densely populated districts by a class of people who cannot be trusted to ensure cleanliness. Medical experts have already pointed out the public danger arising from filthy poultry runs close to human dwellings, and therefore, in considering this subject, one cannot lay too much stress upon the precautions that should be taken to maintain cleanliness.

We are referring more particularly to cases where not more than eight or nine hens are kept in a corner of a garden or, at any rate, in a very confined area, and in such instance it is most desirable to adopt the scratching-shed principle—that is, to cover in the run so that in all weathers the birds have a dry place in which to exercise. In such a run the composition of the floor is of great importance, and perhaps a recital of our own experiences in such matters may help to convince the sceptical. At one time we tried to ensure perfect cleanliness by having in one case a gravel floor, and in another case a sanded floor, which could be raked over when necessary; but although these answered their purpose in one respect they provided very little opportunity for scratching exercise, and latterly we have discarded all others in favour of a plain earth floor with plenty of loose litter. In autumn and winter there are sufficient dead

leaves to serve this purpose, and at other times a little short, rough straw is easily obtainable and will last for a week or two before it requires renewing. This question of renewal is governed by the number of birds kept and the extent of the run, but when the old material is removed the work should be done thoroughly, dust, droppings, and broken straw being removed altogether. With frequent renewals there is little danger to be feared from dust blowing about, since the covered sheltered runs are in themselves a precaution. The greater harm is to be feared from open runs, the floors of which become mud baths in wet weather and are dry and dusty in hot weather.

It is obvious that in these confined areas a few hens can only be kept in a healthy, productive state when attention is paid to all their requirements. They must have exercise, which is provided by the loose litter, among which the hard corn may be scattered. And they must have green food and animal matter in some shape or form, as well as grit and lime, all of which birds running at liberty may find for themselves. We have known some people to be remarkably successful in poultry-keeping of this character, whereas others have failed, and the difference between these results was entirely due to an understanding of the conditions under which fowls thrive in such circumstances, which knowledge is to be gained only by actual experience. Briefly, however, the principle is to give the birds such food, and in such quantity, as will keep them productive, to avoid over-feeding, and to encourage exercise to the fullest extent.

In small runs there is always a danger of overcrowding, and the amateur who extracts a satisfactory profit per head from half a dozen hens is frequently tempted to double the number of his stock in the belief that he will double his profits. As a matter of fact, however, it is more likely that he will halve or quarter the original returns, owing to the ill effects of overcrowding. Moreover, there is such a thing as economising in feeding, by utilising household scraps, which are very useful if given in a proper manner, and may possibly serve to reduce the cost per head of a certain number of hens by 50 per cent.; but above that number the cost per head must be proportionately greater and the profits consequently less.

With regard to household scraps, the best plan is to soak pieces of bread, vegetables, &c., overnight, and dry them off with sharps next morning. Meat should be cut up and given separately, and at least one meal of hard corn, preferably wheat or oats, should be provided daily.

Breeding is out of the question in such small establishments, so that while it is totally unnecessary to keep a male bird, provision must be made for the renewal of the stock periodically. Whether it pays better to clear off all old stock at the end of the first laying season, or to keep birds for two seasons, there is no general agreement, but it may be remembered that a hen never lays so well as in her first season, and that from the market point of view she is worth little more as a yearling than as a two-year-old, so that on the principle that in such small runs it is desirable to keep only birds that are likely to give the very best results we lean to the plan of clearing out and renewing the stock annually. This means that the old birds must be sold at a low price, say 2s., and others bought at perhaps double the value, and though apparently wasteful, it is amply justified by the results.

TYPES AND THE FUTURE.

By MISS A. S. GALBRAITH.

IN the general scramble for prizes and produce what is the goal at which we are aiming in the matter of types? The avowed aim of fancier and utility man alike is, of course, money—to make it pay; but is there beyond this any subconscious idea of whither the show bench and the market are leading us?

The utility man has two distinct aims—get plenty of breast meat and lots of eggs; but so far he does not appear to have any very decided perception of the types that will accomplish this with the largest amount of profit. He is very apt indeed to lose sight of the labour and expenditure in contemplating the occasional golden heap to be obtained at certain inflated, but brief, seasons. The fancier aims primarily at neither of these points, but at what he is pleased to call beauty, always remembering that it must be beauty with a market value.

I have often caused amusement by suggesting that the show judge should be required to have as a qualification a knowledge of ornithology and a thorough acquaintance with the canons of art, including especially familiarity with the best of the old Greek sculptors. When looking at some particularly ungainly, shapeless monstrosities, I once committed the error of saying that they were an outrage against art and nature, not being even an approach to bird form. But I was told that poultry has nothing to do with art, and there are different kinds of bird form. This led to a consideration of the form and general type of the natural order to which our domestic fowl belongs, and to the types evolved by domestication, and I cannot but think that it would be well to have some more definite idea of the ultimate development we are likely to reach by following certain types, and to fix standards according to known natural laws and acknowledged ideals of beauty, rather than merely according to the fancy of individuals. It seems to me that more permanent and healthful results might be obtained by keeping our types within measurable distance of that found in the natural order of "scratchers," in which the family of the domestic hen has its place. There are but three families in this order, and the general type is roughly oval, with alert, graceful carriage, wings and tail well developed for flight and balance, and legs of moderate length, and of just sufficient strength for scratching in the surface litter of wood or jungle.

From this ancestral oval, long and rather narrow, we deviate in two directions in attempting to increase its usefulness. To get more meat we increase the size of the crop and the breast muscles; to get more eggs we increase enormously the size of the egg organs, and consequently deepen the back portions of the hen. When both are aimed at the result is more oblong than oval. But in the extremest type yet produced of the first, the Dorking, we can still discern some semblance to the wild type, while in the extremest of egg-producers, the Silver Hamburg of fifty years ago and the Australian White Leghorn of to-day, the ancestral form is still more clearly traceable. Has the fancier any type in his mind as he deviates more and more widely from the wild form? Or is he governed merely by the desire to go one better than his neighbour? If A

won with a big-combed bird, *B* will next year produce a bigger-combed bird; if *C* has "massive bone" (that envied phrase), then *D* will produce a bird with legs like an ostrich next year; if *E*'s cock has "reach," *F* will over-reach him next year or know the reason why not, till the whole game degenerates into a craze for size, and we have the present prevailing types of "beauty," the only breeds that continue much in favour being those saved from eclipse by their producers having resorted to crossing with modern Asiatics, in order to come near the standard of the Englishman's most deeply respected fetish—bigness.

I often ask, Can nothing be admirable unless it be big? But the point to consider is, Where is it leading to? Is it tending to produce a race of hardy, healthful, useful, and beautiful birds? Does the feeding and forcing, and retarding for size, the confinement and deprivation of sunshine, induce those qualities which shall give to the perfected type those powers of perfect digestion, reproduction, and adaptability to climate that will make them permanent and profitable; or does it mean more and more resorting to tonics, to shelter and protection, and to greater difficulty and expense in rearing?

We cannot well go further in certain types without abandoning the ancestral forms. And though Nature has no hard-and-fast lines, it does not seem probable that man can transform one species into another. He cannot produce from the pure "scratcher" the form of the "wader," as he appears to attempt in Indian Game and recent Scots Greys; try he never so hard in the matter of stilts they will not turn into herons and storks. He may get his Black Orpingtons, La. gshans, or Rocks as big-bodied as penguins, but they will then only be deformed fowls, and assuredly he cannot go much further in the same time to preserve the natural character out accomplishing a full-blown sphere, a form I have not met with in bird life, though it is to be found in the lower order of sunfish. But it is urged that these birds are beautiful because they are so symmetrical; they may have the symmetry of a well-built haystack or the Peak of Teneriffe without thereby acquiring beauty. Might not those who find happiness in the contemplation of enormous birds turn their attention to some larger species and leave *Gallus domesticus* to more natural dimensions? Could they not show us what can be done in selection and breeding for size by reviving the extinct Great Auk from the existing species of Little Auk?

Would it not be well for utility men and fanciers alike to aim at the production of types that would allow of the greatest possible quantity of fine quality meat on the best cuts, while retaining in the male bird the general, though perfected, type of the wild fowl; to achieve layers of the largest possible number of eggs without undue loss of size or vigour in the hen, while maintaining the characteristics and general form of the wild hen? It would be extremely difficult to do this, but in difficulty of attainment lies half the charm. To produce all that the market wants for food and at the same time to preserve the natural character and type of the family, while improving the general contour and colour, would be an achievement, and it might lead in the end to producing birds who should answer all those requirements while kept under natural conditions, birds so hardy and prolific that they would lay well in this climate with a minimum of protection, birds so sound in

feather and colour that they would retain their beauty in the same measure as the wild birds do, without the ceaseless shading, shutting up in cockerel boxes, forcing with special foods and tonics; in short, birds who owed their show beauties to natural qualities, rather than to artificial conditions. Surely this would be a goal worth keeping in view, and there can be no question that the economic advantage to the country as a whole would be greater than by following present methods.

Then it might be that we should find in this perfected creation something of the beauty of proportion and line, the balanced strength and the delicate grace, that make the charm of art in its highest phases, and which we see carried to perfection in the works of the old Greek sculptors. How much better to create it in living forms!—Surely a game well worth the candle, though not to be easily won.

PREPARING FOR THE CHICKENS.

THE beginning of a New Year is a busy time for the poultryman and a period of unusual bustle and activity. With many fanciers, as well as utility breeders, it dates the actual commencement of the hatching season, and to all it brings the reminder that it is high time to set about preparing for it. The breeding-pens have long since been mated up with anxious care, the strain decided on, the eggs garnered, and often even the incubators ready to yield their chirping harvest before a thought is given to the brooders or coops. Then perhaps it is remembered that these have never been touched since they were packed away in some cellar or barn at the close of last season, dirty, unpainted, and with lice-laden feathers in their crevices. For feathers alone, as a writer has recently told us in these columns, are sufficient to nourish a colony of poultry lice for many weeks. The cleansing and renovating of the brooders and coops are therefore duties that should on no account be overlooked or put off until the last moment, for, unless there is thoroughness here, rearing is sure to be attended with disappointment and losses. Brooders should be carefully looked over, their woodwork examined for defects from warping, hot-water tanks and lamps tested for leakages, and old curtains or any materials likely to harbour the eggs of lice removed and replaced by new ones. Wooden floors must be thoroughly scraped and brushed over with hot limewash, and all interior woodwork washed or sprayed with a solution made by steeping half a pound of fresh quassia chips in a gallon of boiling water for one hour, afterwards straining off and adding half a pound of soft soap. This solution can also be used for cleansing chicken coops previous to lime-washing them. After both coops and brooders have been dried and opened up to sunlight and air for a couple of days the outsides can be painted when necessary. A word of warning will not be out of place as regards some preservative paints now being largely advertised. If any of these are used, care must be taken to expose the newly-painted coops to the open air for some days before occupation, and in the painting of foster-mothers one cannot be too cautious in the choice of the preparation; indeed, it is always wise to run a newly-painted brooder for several hours with the lamp going, in order to dry off any fumes caused by the warming of the wood.

AMONG THE BIRDS IN FEBRUARY.

By J. W. HURST.

THE LAYING STOCK.

Although commonly referred to as "laying stock" there have not been wanting recent instances of a failure to justify the description. During the past few months, or as a matter of fact from the commencement of the so-called laying season, I have been in constant communication with a large body of poultry-keepers situated in various districts throughout the British Isles, and have realised (as never before) the many and conflicting difficulties experienced by those who set out to produce anything like a good supply of eggs at unseasonable or unnatural periods. The result has been to make me more than ever chary of offering advice for general application. There are, however, certain principles that apply in most circumstances, subject to the modifications suggested by individual conditions. Artificial conditions must be tempered by natural requirements, and the measure of the modifications must depend upon the object of the egg-production. If we narrow the meaning of the term "laying stock," as is commonly done, to refer mainly to producers of eggs for eating we may take many more liberties with their constitution than would be wise in the case of fowls intended for present or subsequent breeding purposes. We may feed warmer and more stimulating morning mash, we may increase the proportion of meat, and we may adhere more closely to the conditions of confinement—if we want eggs only. But if we require eggs for incubation, that will hatch out strong and vigorous chickens, we must beware of forcing methods—either in housing or feeding. Nevertheless, whether the fowls be classed as "laying" or "breeding" stock they must have dry quarters and sound nourishing food—we have not yet finished with winter, and must be prepared for wet and windy conditions at least.

THE CHICKENS.

The difficulties of the season are experienced to the full in the work of rearing, which should now be well under way. Not that there must be any unnecessary fuss with the chickens—far from it, they must be reared in hardiness. Provided the parent stock be fit it is wonderful what early-hatched chickens will stand in the way of weather—provided always, as in the case of the older birds, that they have dry quarters and nourishing food. Chickens of various ages are to be seen on many farms where rearing is seriously undertaken, and those that are run under what are usually called "natural conditions" are doing better than where there is too much management. They do well enough on short or sheep-grazed grass, or on well-drained soil, if they have ready access to dry shelters. A little biscuit meal is a great help to the progress of the younger birds at this time of the year, but speaking generally the use of Sussex ground oats as the staple feeding stuff can scarcely be beaten by any of the mixtures advocated by idealists, while a little lean meat is beneficial after the birds are two or three weeks old. Some amount of extra care is required on wet days, and the more the birds are kept out of the wet—without a too close confinement—the better they will be.

DUCKS.

When young early ducklings arrive they are in some ways less difficult to manage than young early chickens, inasmuch as they do not want so much brooding, and may very well be accommodated in well-littered sheds under conditions of confinement that would be disastrous in the case of chickens. The stock ducks whose eggs are required for incubation should give satisfactory results upon a diet of barley-meal, middlings, and some lean meat; fed warm, this makes a good mixture for feeding during the continuance of severe winter weather. As, however, there are risks attached to the too free feeding of barley-meal and meat, some discretion is necessary, and a more staple mixture may consist of oatmeal and middlings, with the sparing addition of lean meat. For grain feeding, oats and wheat may be given, and maize occasionally when considered desirable by reason of the climatic conditions. A good mixture for ducklings being fed for market may be made with one part of middlings, and three parts of either oatmeal, barley-meal, or well-boiled rice. These constituents allow for change, and with all should be included some lean cooked meat or greaves.

TURKEYS AND GEES.

Although it is such a short time since the marketing of the birds reared last year, we must devote some present attention to the stock turkeys upon which we depend for the future production. The turkey cocks may be run along with the hens, only mature birds being used, and the proportion of the sexes may be one of the former to as many as six of the latter—in some circumstances eight. These birds must be kept in good condition, and above all the danger of over-feeding must be avoided at this period if the breeding season is to be a successful one. The food required depends upon the character and extent of the range, over which the birds must be encouraged to wander—as they will freely do if not fed too heavily. Suitable feeding stuffs include oats, barley, and wheat; barley-meal, ground oats, sharps, and meat; swedes, kohl-rabi, and other vegetable food.

The chief present consideration with regard to the stock geese is the character, extent, and availability of the growing herbage—especially when we get snow on the ground. Cabbage greens do not adequately supply their requirements, but clover hay, well chaffed and scalded, may be added to the soft food with advantage—the meals and grains fed to the fowls sufficing for their other general wants.

A Big Crop of Turkeys.

The American *Farm and Home* says that the turkey crop of Texas this season was about a million sold to northern parts of the United States, and half a million consumed in the southern sections. Texas has vast possibilities in poultry production, and being adjacent to Mexico the conditions should be favourable to the turkey.

Turkeys to China.

The *Sydney Mail* states that during one week in November a thousand turkeys were shipped to Singapore, doubtless to grace the tables of English officials and traders there who desired to celebrate Christmas in a festival spirit.

THE INHERITANCE OF BARRED PLUMAGE IN POULTRY.

AS yet scientific investigations have revealed very little indeed as to the colouration of plumage in domestic fowls. Under wild conditions the protective element is a factor which appears to determine very largely what birds shall survive and perpetuate the race. When domesticated, how-

of Leipzig. The authors do not attempt to solve the problem as to origin or cause of barred plumage, but rather its persistence. As stated, "the inheritance of barring is of such character as to indicate most strongly that we have to deal with a unit character—viz., a particular definite and characteristic pattern."

In the experiments here recorded crosses were made between Plymouth Rocks, which owe their barred marking to the Dominique, and the Cornish or Indian Game, with the object of inquiring "if barred birds, both male and female, be bred with non-barred birds, both male and female, what will be the colour pattern of the offspring?" As is well known, the colour of the Cornish Game is largely glossy black, with bay and dark red, in which there are no signs of barring, present or latent. The crosses made were in both ways possible.

Twelve matings were tested between Barred Rock males and Cornish Indian Game females, from which 223 chickens were hatched, of which 138—namely, 70 males and 68 females—were reared to adulthood. Of the reciprocal cross—*i.e.*, between the Cornish Game cock and Plymouth Rock hens—twenty-five matings were tested, from which 251 chickens were hatched, of which 191—namely, 95 males and 96 females—were reared to adulthood. The results are very striking indeed. All the progeny of the first-named cross without exception were barred, thus following uniformly the plumage of the fathers. But of the reverse mating, all the male offspring were barred, as were the mothers, but the female offspring were "solid black over the whole body, and show no evidence of a colour pattern of any kind." This is a most suggestive result, and indicates the strongly inherent character of the barred plumage.

So far as the black males are concerned, the authors say: "These birds are all uniformly black. We have not yet been able to demonstrate even a ghost or shadow pattern on them." The black is brownish, as if there had been some intermixture of a red pigment with the ordinary black of the Plymouth Rock. In those having the barred marking both males and females of the crossed birds show much darker barring than in the parent Rocks, though there are some exceptions. For instance, in males there were 2 light, 12 ordinary barred colour, and 56 dark, and in females there were 16 light, 24 barred, and 55 dark.

The conclusion arrived at is that "the general result is to indicate that (a) the barred pattern is inherited as a unit character independent of the pigment which fills the pattern, and that (b) more intense pigmentation is dominant over less intense, with the final result that (c) the actual somatic (body) barring is less well defined in the barred hybrids than in their barred parents. Further, the ground colour of the barring is different in the hybrids from what it is in their barred parents."



A.

FEATHERS.

B.

A. from Barred Hybrids. B. from Pure Barred Plymouth Rocks.

ever, that influence no longer applies. Selection is on other lines. Yet we find that certain colours and markings are strongly inherent in various races. One of these is what is called "barred," or "cuckoo," not very common, but met with to a limited extent in nearly all countries. We welcome, therefore, a paper by Drs. Raymond Pearl and Frank M. Surface, of the Maine Experiment Station, "On the Inheritance of the Barred Colour Pattern in Poultry," published by W. Engleman,



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.



FIG. 5.



FIG. 6.



FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.



FIG. 7.

Fig. 1.—PURE-BRED BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK COCK.
" 2.—PURE-BRED CORNISH INDIAN GAME HEN.
" 3.—PURE-BRED CORNISH INDIAN GAME COCK.
Fig. 4.—PURE-BRED BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK HEN.
" 5.—BARRED HYBRID COCK.
" 6.—BARRED HYBRID HEN.
Fig. 7.—SOLID BLACK HYBRID HEN.

"OW'D TIMMY."

A VERY extensive poultry-rearing district is that lying between Keighley and Oxenhope, known as the Worth Valley, and locally termed Brontë's Country, since Charlotte Brontë lived her life amid these lovely surroundings of hills and moors. At one time, hand-loom weaving was a very important industry, but during the last half-century it has declined very greatly. As a matter of fact, hand-weaving has long since become almost defunct, and many of the old-time weavers have considerably augmented their slender means of livelihood by the keeping of poultry, while many of them have depended entirely on the sale of eggs and chickens.

There has just passed away in his eighty-fifth year an extremely interesting local celebrity, Timothy Feathers, known in the district as "Ow'd Timmy." When machinery took the place of the hand-loom, Timmy's occupation was practically gone. He immediately started poultry-keeping, and during the last few years of his life his work in this direction had pretty well supported him, if not in luxury, at any rate in comfort. At one time he

MUSTARD AND EGG-PRODUCTION.

CAPTAIN ALLEN, of Sawbridgeworth, has done excellent service to the poultry industry in conducting a twelve months' experiment on the value of mustard as an aid to winter laying. The extensive use of condiments, drugs, and spices is generally acknowledged to do more harm than good, for while they may perhaps encourage egg-production for a few weeks, they ultimately do damage to the hen's constitution, and in the long run they are apt to reduce her prolificacy. The action of stimulating powders is certainly artificial; they excite the ovaries temporarily, but there is an attendant reaction, which is neither beneficial to the hen nor to the balance-sheet. Moreover, it is generally agreed by veterinary experts that the prolonged use of drugs and hot spices invariably affects the constitution of the birds, usually terminating in derangement of the liver. Mustard is, however, somewhat different in its effects, since one of its specific actions on the system is to stimulate the secretion and flow of the salivary glands, thus predisposing the food for digestion. Every thoughtful



"OW'D TIMMY" AT HIS LOOM.

had quite an extensive stock of birds, mostly first crosses of the non-sitting type. Not only were his fowls responsible for part of his income, but they added an interest to his life, since Timmy's lot was a somewhat lonely one; after being engaged for forty years he died a bachelor. He only lived to enjoy his well-earned old-age pension for a very short time. Our illustration shows Timmy at his loom, which he worked for upwards of seventy years. It has now become the property of the Keighley Museum.

Dr. P. T. Woods.

The need for rest has compelled Dr. Prince T. Woods to sever his connection with the *American Poultry World*, of which he has been managing editor since its inception. His contributions will be greatly missed, for in that and the *Reliable* he has been a prolific and interesting writer.

poultry-keeper is aware that there are many demands on the nutriment assimilated by a hen, the repair of waste tissue, the generation of heat and energy, as well as material for growth of bone, muscle, flesh, and feather, and that only when these are satisfied—and not till then—will the balance, if any, be utilised in egg-production. It is not the amount of food the hen eats, but the nutriment she extracts from it by the digestive process that supplies all these demands and finally produces eggs; consequently, any auxiliary to facilitate digestion would in all probability greatly encourage egg-production.

THE EXPERIMENT.—The farm where the test was made is situated at Llangammarch Wells, a cold and bleak spot, nearly 900 feet above sea level, exposed to all the four winds. It was decided in order to make the experiment more complete to have three pens of fowls, all of which were fed the same as regards quality and quantity; the difference, however, was that the first pen had no stimulants whatever, the second had half an ounce

of capsicum added to their rations, while the third received one teaspoonful of mustard. Each pen consisted of six Buff Orpington pullets, none of which had laid when the test commenced on October 1, 1909. The pens, which were of grass and measured twenty yards square, adjoined, while the houses were identical—open-fronted, measuring 6ft. by 3ft. by 4ft. high.



BREEDING-PENS AT LLANGAMMARCH WELLS.

THE RESULTS.—Comprehensive results are given by Captain Allen, but we cannot do more than summarise them.

	Ordinary.	Capsicum.	Mustard.
1st Quarter,	142 eggs, value 23/8;	108 eggs, value 18/0;	222 eggs, value 37 0
2nd "	227 " " 25 2;	291 " " 32 4;	310 " " 34 5
3rd "	306 " " 25 6;	275 " " 22 11;	284 " " 23 8
4th "	239 " " 23 2;	231 " " 22 5;	207 " " 20 1
	914 " " 97 6;	905 " " 95 8;	1,023 " " 115 2

The provision of capsicum in addition to the ordinary food entailed expense which was unwarranted according to the experiment, since this pen of birds did not produce as many eggs as did those which received no stimulants at all. Sevenpence halfpenny per bird, or 3s. 6d. for the pen, was spent on mustard during the twelve months; 17s. 8d. worth more of eggs was the result, or an extra profit of 14s. 2d. from the six birds, which equals over 2s. 4d. per head.

TYPE AND UTILITY.

WHILE the utilitarian need not give the same amount of attention to all the little points given in the Poultry Club Standards, at the same time it is absolutely imperative that the type of bird should be kept prominently to the front. It is neglect in this direction that accounts, to a large extent, for the nondescript appearance of the fowls on so many farmyards. That their beauty may be retained without impairing their economic qualities is an acknowledged fact; at the same time it must be admitted that if purity of race is carried out too rigidly the more showy points will probably be developed at the expense of their stamina, which is of the first importance for practical farmyard use. There is, however, a medium at which all utility poultry-keepers should aim—keep to the general type of each particular breed. This is a rule that should never be broken. Probably the size of the bird is the standard that is most frequently overlooked, especially by the farming community; large size, in their eyes, covers a multitude of other imperfections. This applies to the non-sitting breeds, since small varieties of poultry undoubtedly

yield a greater number of eggs throughout the year. It is not meant to imply that in every case the non-sitting type are the more profitable, since they are summer rather than winter layers, but as to the actual number of eggs produced in twelve months, invariably the small type of hen excels in this direction. For instance, if a farmer keeps Leghorns, he should aim as nearly as possible at keeping to the proper size, which in the Poultry Club Standards gives the weight of the cock at six to eight pounds and the hen's bodily weight may vary from five to seven pounds. From a purely laying standpoint, we would certainly aim for the five rather than the seven pound limit. We were once on a farm in the West of England, where some of the very best of stock were kept—best of stock, that is, so far as cattle, sheep, pigs, &c., were concerned. This farmer is one of those strange cases occasionally to be met with who fully realises the importance of breeding from the very best, and knows perfectly well that blood is bound to tell eventually. He studies these matters most carefully, consequently his breeding stock is selected upon the most scientific lines, and the laws of breeding are regarded in every detail, the result being that his farm animals are the envy of neighbouring farmers for miles round. Now, this same man regards his poultry in quite a different way. It was towards the end of February of last year when we paid our visit. The farm poultry consisted of, in round figures, about two hundred head, at least a hundred of which were the previous year's cockerels. No distinctive type was to be seen in all this number; if any breed did, however, predominate more than another, the Wyandotte type was mostly in evidence, although the majority of these were crested and carried five toes! It is on such farms as these, which happily now are getting very scarce, that not the least notice is taken of type, and a knowledge of the standards is absolutely non-existent. We do not mean to say that every general farmer should study the book of standards to find out, before buying his birds, how many serrations the comb should have, the colour of eye, colour and shape of ear-lobe, and have all these little niceties at his finger-ends. This is not to be expected from any but the fancier; at the same time, it behoves the general farmer, when purchasing or otherwise selecting stock, to observe and see that he gets birds that are symmetrical in shape, correctly marked in plumage, a male with an upright comb, if the comb is of this character, and a rose-comb if of the Rose-comb family. The legs should be of the right colour, and feathered, or free from feather, according to the standard of the breed that is in question.



AYLESBURY DUCKS AT LLANGAMMARCH

MARKETS AND MARKETING.

Week Ending December 24.

The warm weather proved a source of great trouble, the muggy atmosphere having a very serious effect on the Christmas markets. The supply of English turkeys was good, particularly large consignments being received from Norfolk and Devonshire. A very great number of foreign turkeys were condemned, but the state of affairs was not so serious as some papers made out. So far as one can gather, there were about 40,000 birds seized by the inspectors. One shipper alone lost 8,000, which at 10s. each represents £4,000.

Capons were very plentiful, and some exceptionally fine specimens were to be seen.

Eggs were scarce, but they were more in evidence than during the previous few weeks. The price at the provincial markets averaged 1s. 11d. per dozen.

Week Ending December 31.

After the Christmas excitement the markets were somewhat dull. Conversation with many of the leading salesmen revealed the fact that business, on the whole, had proved quite satisfactory. There was naturally a slump in values on the Saturday preceding Christmas Day, but this is always the case, more or less. The mild weather again proved a source of trouble.

New-laid eggs were arriving more freely, and the very scarce period came to an end. The average price in the provinces was a penny a dozen less than last week.

Week Ending January 7.

The market this week resumed its normal course, and business was fairly brisk. Turkeys were pretty much in evidence, but they were nearly all imported birds. There were also a few geese, while ducks were fairly plentiful.

New-laid eggs were much more plentiful, and there was quite a considerable drop in their value. The provincial markets were not quite so well supplied, however, and prices averaged 1s. 9d. per dozen.

Week Ending January 14.

The markets were steady, and in some cases prices were inclined to harden. Turkeys and geese were fairly plentiful, and made good prices. Ducks were rather scarce, but as there was very little demand a high figure was not reached.

English eggs were comparatively plentiful, and prices fell a good deal. The provincial supply was pretty good, and the average value was 1s. 7d. per dozen.

Week Ending January 21.

The markets were fairly spirited, and there was a good demand for chickens and ducks. Naturally, there was a considerable falling-off in the demand for turkeys and geese, but notwithstanding this prices ranged tolerably good. Eggs are becoming a little more plentiful, but prices are remaining firm. As a matter of fact, the value of English new-laid was a trifle higher than the preceding week, but there was a slight drop in those from abroad.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY IN 1910.

SOME interesting figures are given in Mr. Edward Brown's annual summary for 1910, which has appeared in a large number of papers, concerning the Imports and Exports of Eggs and Poultry during the last twelve months. In his last year's summary Mr. Brown pointed out that the growing consumption of eggs and poultry in Germany was an explanation why supplies of imported eggs have steadily declined since the year 1903, leading to advance in prices. As shown in later paragraphs, this influence has continued in 1910, save that Russia has made an increase. In order, therefore, to learn at first hand how far foreign supplies are likely to be deviated, he recently carried out inquiries in Germany, and the result of these observations shows that the position requires to be immediately met. The time has come when a more determined effort than ever shall be put forth to increase production in the United Kingdom, so that we may be, except for the cheapest grades, less dependent upon imports than heretofore, not alone of the higher quality produce, but of what may be regarded as seconds. That this can be done there is no doubt whatever. Ireland can do more, and there is no reason why Scotland should not supply eggs and poultry to the value of three to four million pounds sterling annually. Such supplies could be placed upon our markets equal in quality and freshness to the Danish. The last-named we shall continue to need, but the signs are that longer-distance supplies will further decline in the near future.

In this connection it is necessary to mention again that the result of inflation of prices beyond what they are now will assuredly be lessened consumption. We appear to have reached the point where the risks of further advances are considerable, save, perhaps, for a few weeks in the spring, though the fall then is much less marked than formerly. Should imports continue to decrease in volume, increased prices will naturally follow, unless checked by greater home production. It is to the interest of all concerned that consumption shall be encouraged, which can only be if householders are able to obtain what they require at rates that return a fair value for money expended.

Owing to unfavourable climatic conditions the turkey crop has not been adequate and prices have ranged high. Larger farmers are very slow in taking up this branch, in which there are large returns available. Much might be done in raising turkeys on the open lands, where there is abundance of room. With turkeys, also, abnormal prices are checking consumption or compelling recourse to inferior foreign birds. To some extent, however, high prices were due to the bad condition in which some foreign supplies were landed, large quantities being condemned as unfit for food.

The comparative values of eggs and poultry imported during the last three years are:

	1908. £	1909. £	1910. £
Eggs	7,183,112	7,233,932	7,296,145
Poultry	934,679	920,697	821,310
Totals ...	£8,117,791	£8,154,629	£8,117,455

TABLE OF PRICES REALISED FOR HOME, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POULTRY, GAME, AND EGGS FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING JANUARY 21, 1911.

ENGLISH POULTRY—LONDON MARKETS.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
Surrey Chickens	2/9 to 5/0	2/9 to 5/0	2/9 to 5/0	2/9 to 5/0
Sussex	2/9 " 5/0	2/9 " 5/0	2/9 " 5/0	2/9 " 5/0
Yorkshire	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0
Boston	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0
Essex	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0
Capons	5/0 " 7/6	5/0 " 7/6	5/0 " 7/6	5/0 " 7/6
Irish Chickens	2/6 " 3/3	2/6 " 3/3	2/6 " 3/3	2/6 " 3/3
Live Hens.....	2/3 " 3/0	2/3 " 3/0	2/3 " 3/0	2/3 " 3/0
Aylesbury Ducklings..	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/6 " 4/0
Ducks	5/0 " 7/6	5/0 " 7/6	5/0 " 7/6	5/0 " 7/6
Geese.....	0/9 " 1/0	0/9 " 1/0	0/9 " 1/0	0/9 " 1/0
Turkeys, Cocks	0/10, 0/11	0/10, 1/0	0/10, 1/0	0/10, 1/0
" Hens.....	0/10, 0/11	0/10, 1/0	0/10, 1/0	0/10, 1/0

ENGLISH GAME—LONDON MARKETS.

DESCRIPTION.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
Grouse	2/0 " 2/9	2/0 " 2/9	2/0 " 2/9	2/0 " 2/9
Partridges.....	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6
Pheasants	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6
Black Game	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6
Hares	2/0 " 3/3	2/0 " 3/3	2/0 " 3/3	2/0 " 3/3
Rabbits, Tame	1/0 " 2/6	1/0 " 2/6	1/0 " 2/6	1/0 " 2/6
" Wild	0/6 " 1/0	0/6 " 1/0	0/6 " 1/0	0/6 " 1/0
Pigeons, Tame	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6
" Wild	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6	2/0 " 2/6
Woodcock	0/9 " 1/6	0/9 " 1/6	0/9 " 1/6	0/9 " 1/6
Snipe	0/10, 1/1	0/10, 1/2	0/10, 1/2	0/10, 1/2
Plover	0/10, 1/1	0/10, 1/2	0/10, 1/2	0/10, 1/2

ENGLISH EGGS.

MARKETS.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.
LONDON	17/6 to 19/0	13/0 to 14/0	12/0 to 14/0	13/6 to 15/0
Provinces.	Eggs per 1/-	Eggs per 1/-	Eggs per 1/-	Eggs per 1/-
MANCHESTER	7 to 8	7	7 to 8	8
BRISTOL	2/0 per doz.	2/0 per doz.	1/8 per doz.	1/7 per doz.

FOREIGN POULTRY—LONDON MARKETS.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	Chickens, Each.	Ducks, Each.	Ducklings, Each.	Geese, Per lb.
Russia	1/6 to 2/9	1/6 to 2/9	—	0/5 to 0/5½
Hungary	—	—	—	—
France	—	—	—	—
United States of America	—	—	—	—
Austria	—	—	—	—
Canada	—	—	—	—
Australia	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN GAME. LONDON MARKETS.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.	
	1st Week.	2nd Week.
Capercailzie	1/2 to 1/4	—
Black Game.....	0/9 " 1/0	—
Partridges.....	1/0 " 1/3	—
Quail	—	—
Bordeaux Pigeons	0/9 " 1/4	—
Hares	—	—
Rabbits	0/6 " 0/8	—
Snipe	0/9 " 1/0	—

IMPORTS OF POULTRY AND GAME. MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1910.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	DECLARED VALUES.	
	Game.	Poultry.
Russia	£1,001	£122,528
Austria-Hungary.....	£2,102	£64,118
France	£111	£114,894
United States of America	£74	£2,539
Other Countries	£7,413	£58,562
Totals	£11,451	£362,641

IMPORTS OF EGGS. MONTH ENDING DEC. 31, 1910.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	PRICES REALISED DURING THE MONTH.			
	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.
Russia	16/0 to 18/0	13/0 to 14/0	12/0 to 14/0	12/0 to 14/0
Denmark	10/0 to 20/0	10/6 to 18/0	10/0 to 16/0	9/0 " 14/0
Germany	10/0 " 17/6	10/6 " 17/0	10/0 " 14/0	9/0 " 14/0
Austria-Hungary.....	12/0 " 17/0	12/0 " 14/6	10/0 " 13/6	9/3 " 12/0
France	8/3 " 11/6	9/3 " 12/0	8/6 " 10/3	8/6 " 9/0
Canada	9/0 " 11/6	9/0 " 11/0	8/0 " 10/3	7/0 " 9/6
Italy	8/6 " 12/0	9/3 " 12/0	8/6 " 10/6	8/6 " 10/0
Other Countries	16/0 " 19/0	12/6 " 17/0	10/0 " 15/0	10/0 " 14/0
Totals	16/0 " 19/0	12/6 " 17/0	10/0 " 15/0	10/0 " 14/0

FOREIGN EGGS.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	DECLARED VALUES.			
	Quantities in Gt. Hund.	Declared Values.	Quantities in Gt. Hund.	Declared Values.
Russia	686,134	£291,065	686,134	£291,065
Denmark	353,718	£213,325	353,718	£213,325
Germany	65,500	£29,400	65,500	£29,400
Austria-Hungary.....	114,092	£56,118	114,092	£56,118
France	30,022	£16,993	30,022	£16,993
Canada	996	£590	996	£590
Italy	39,415	£21,865	39,415	£21,865
Other Countries	230,790	£97,027	230,790	£97,027
Totals	1,522,227	£726,392	1,522,227	£726,392

The total values show a slight decline upon the previous year, and are practically the same as in 1908. There is a reduction of £99,687 in table-poultry, which has steadily fallen since 1904, when the total was £1,089,044. As shown below, there is a considerable increase in quantities of eggs, due to larger Russian supplies, and a slight consequent fall in average values.

The Trade and Navigation returns for 1910 record that the eggs imported into the United Kingdom from all countries were 18,344,137 great hundreds, or 2,201,296,440, an increase over 1909 of 633,696 great hundreds, or 76,043,520, or 5,280 tons. The year of maximum imports was 1903, and in 1910 we received 1,504,760 great hundreds, or 180,571,200, or 12,540 tons fewer eggs. A very large increase in imports is recorded from Russia (1,062,951 great hundreds), and slight increases from Denmark and Austria-Hungary, while all other countries show declining supplies. Below are the figures for the respective countries, with percentages of quantities:

EGGS IMPORTED, 1910.

From	Quantities, gt. hds.	Values, £.	Percentage of quantities.
Russia	9,217,586	3,282,194	50.25
Denmark	3,647,139	1,732,107	19.90
Germany	507,307	200,800	2.77
France	907,599	417,545	4.96
Italy	746,841	350,238	4.07
Austria-Hungary ...	1,370,121	555,998	7.47
Canada	1,860	1,097	0.01
Other Countries	1,945,684	756,106	10.57
Totals	18,344,137	7,296,145	100.00

Russia has advanced compared with 1909 by 4.2 per cent., Denmark by 0.54 per cent., and Austria-Hungary by 0.13 per cent.; whilst Germany has declined 0.69 per cent., France by 0.95 per cent., Italy by 0.87 per cent., Canada by 0.01 per cent., and other countries by 2.35 per cent.

Below are the average values of all eggs imported since 1898 for alternate years, showing the steady advance in prices:

	Per gt. hd. s. d.		Per gt. hd. s. d.
1898	5 10	1906	7 6½
1900	6 5½	1908	7 10½
1902	6 7½	1910	8 0
1904	6 9		

We here find an increase of 2s. 2d. per great hundred in twelve years. The average of 1910 is slightly below that of 1909, due to the influence of cheaper grades from Russia and other countries.

The figures for the respective countries are:

DECLARED AVERAGE VALUES OF EGGS IMPORTED.

From	1908. Per gt. hd. s. d.	1909. Per gt. hd. s. d.	1910. Per gt. hd. s. d.
Russia	7 1½	7 2	7 1½
Denmark	9 3¼	9 6¼	9 9½
Germany	7 2½	8 3¼	7 10¼
France	8 6¼	9 0¾	9 2¼
Italy	9 0	9 1¾	9 5
Austria-Hungary ...	7 6¼	8 4¼	8 1½
Canada	9 10	10 11	11 9½
Other Countries	7 4¼	8 6½	7 9¼

In spite of largely increased quantities from Russia, there is only a decline of ½d. per great hundred, while those from Germany and Austria-Hungary have dropped back somewhat, as have the supplies from other countries not named. Dutch, French, and Italian have advanced. The Canadian are only sent at the time of highest prices, and are so few as not to affect the average.

As already shown, there is a reduction, equal to 10.8 per cent., in the value of poultry imported, but we have no means of comparing the quantities. The following are the figures for the last three years:

IMPORTS OF POULTRY.

From	1908. £	1909. £	1910. £
Russia	360,362	351,918	303,260
France	170,387	156,085	163,527
Austria-Hungary	114,037	108,542	79,607
United States of America	152,135	149,552	88,177
Other Countries	136,758	154,602	186,739
Totals	£933,679	£920,699	£821,310

In all cases, except France and unnamed other countries, there is a marked decline, and supplies from the United States have fallen by £155,573, or 63.82 per cent., in four years.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN THE NORTH.

IN most of the Northern markets the sale of geese and turkeys during the Christmas season was well maintained, both in quantity and quality, and excellent prices were obtained by those who marketed their produce early. Many, however, failed in this direction, as will be seen from the following extract from the *Yorkshire Evening Post*:

There has been an amazing slump in turkeys and geese. Too many birds arrived just before and just after Christmas Day, with the result that during this week-end some 3,000 turkeys and 2,000 geese must be disposed of in the Leeds Market.

It is many years since there was such a glut on New Year's Eve, and medium-sized turkeys will be offered for 8d. a lb., while geese will be quoted from 6d. to 8d. a lb. If they do not sell quickly at these prices, another drop may be confidently expected. The birds are all sizes—turkeys from 6lb. to 12lb., and geese from 8lb. to 10lb. A prominent dealer estimates that in Leeds, as the distributing centre for a wide area, between 20,000 and 25,000 turkeys and geese were sold during the week preceding Christmas. Those folks who have not been fortunate enough to indulge in such special fare may now buy turkey meat for as little as Welsh mutton or Irish bacon.

Game, too, is down in price. Pheasants are 5s. to 5s. 6d. a brace, capercaillie 5s. to 6s. a brace, ptarmigan 2s. to 2s. 6d. a brace, black game 3s. to 3s. 6d. a brace, Scotch mountain hares 2s. to 2s. 6d. each, and English brown hares 3s. 6d. to 4s. each.

Quail is now in season, and selling at 1s. 2d. a bird. Chickens vary in price from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. each, while ducks keep up at 3s. 6d.



SOME OF MR. BUXTON'S TROPHIES, ALL WON DURING 1910. [Copyright.]

TRINITY POULTRY FARM.

IF a farm's favourable situation was all that was necessary to produce good birds, then we should say that Mr. Walter Buxton's success was easily accounted for by the site and character of his land. Rarely has a more happy choice been made of a breeding ground than in the case of Trinity Poultry Farm, at Medstead, near Alton, Hants, where this fancier breeds the Orpingtons and other fowls with which he has won so many victories in the show-pen. The site may be briefly summed up as ten acres of South slope. Placed high on a Hampshire upland, some 700ft. above sea-level, the farm is a parallelogram of pasture extending from the back of the low-built farmhouse which is the headquarters; a stretch of loamy soil drained naturally and perfectly by the chalk beneath it, and inclining throughout its whole length towards the southern boundary. Hereto we found our way one morning last month when the frost held London and the Thames Valley in its grip, and the mist was gathering itself into a bitter, evil-tasting fog. But up here, when we arrived at ten o'clock, was neither fog nor the slightest trace of mist. The ground indeed was hard-bound with frost and the air keen as a razor, but overhead the sky was a flawless blue, and the January sun shone brightly and, as the day wore on, fiercely enough to soften the surface of the slope which reaped the full benefit of its heat.

It was a day of days for viewing Jubilee

Orpingtons—Mr. Buxton's favourite variety—for as we passed through pen after pen of these birds, their brilliant plumage took an added beauty from the sparkling light. So with the Blacks, whose beetle-green markings shimmered bravely in the sunlight, and with the Silver-laced Wyandottes which displayed their delicately patterned backs and wings at their best. We mention these breeds particularly, not only because they rank first in importance among Mr. Buxton's stock, but because, on our preliminary survey, they were the salient features of our general impression of the whole. Besides these, of course, there are kept many other breeds, some of which have included winners of distinction. Is there not a Blue-laced Wyandotte cock that took first prize at Kenilworth, Camberley, and elsewhere, and is now doing duty in the breeding-pen? Among the Blue-laced Wyandottes, too, and the Blue Leghorns are hens that have well earned their claim to be considered prospective mothers of first-rate stock. Altogether, we visited more than fifty pens, exclusive of the untenanted ones—for Mr. Buxton makes a point of resting every pen at least three months in the year—and saw a large variety of breeds, hardly one of which has failed to produce something in the way of a prize-winner, and all of which have justified their existence from the utility standpoint. It would naturally be impossible to describe them in detail, but some account of the general dis-

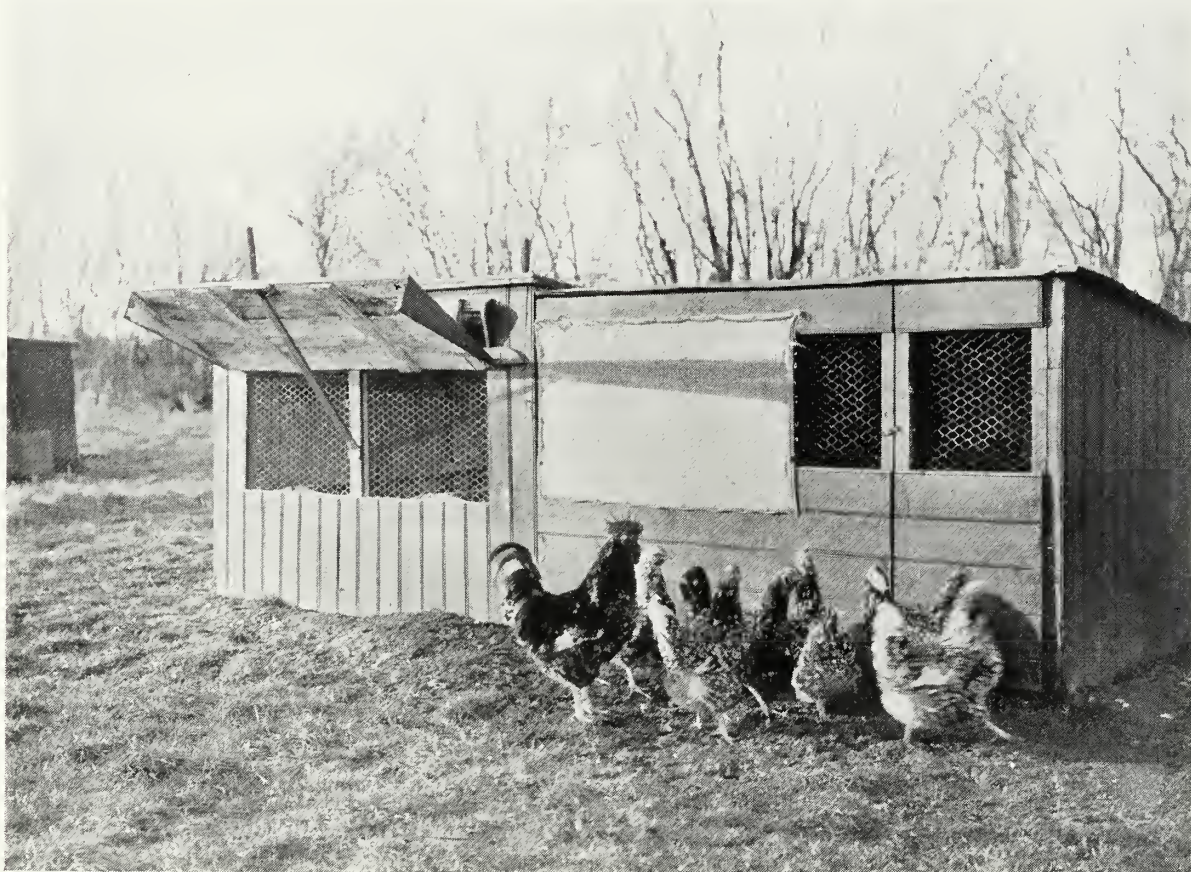
TRADE SUPPLEMENT

position and fittings of the pens, and of a few very special ones, may be of interest.

Outwardly the pens form one compact block, beyond which lies an expanse of open pasture devoted to utility flocks at liberty. The first eighteen, however, measuring 15 by 8 yards apiece, are smaller than the rest, which attain the ample dimensions of 35 yards by 15 yards. The customary wire netting (about two miles of it has been required), with corrugated iron skirting boards, divides them one from another; and the houses, with some few exceptions, are of the combined sleeping-house and scratching-shed type, with open fronts that

in the pens and their houses, but in the exhibition and cockerel-boxes, roominess is an insistent feature. One is conscious of the same amplitude of space in going through the breeding-pens. At the time of our visit they contained about 600 head of stock, but even this considerable total seemed small in proportion to the extent of ground over which the birds were distributed.

Three pens of Jubilee Orpingtons each contained notable birds of both sexes, those in No. 1 being headed by a cockerel of great attractiveness as well as notoriety. This perfectly-shaped and coloured bird has only been



No. 2 PEN, JUBILEE ORPINGTONS,
Which includes many famous winners.

[Copyright.]

can be made more or less open in accordance with the season and weather. The litter used both in these and the exhibition boxes is a mixture of peat moss and chaff, and every attention has been paid to ample, though not extravagant, ventilation. The roofs are covered with felt, and both roofs and walls are tarred. One of the larger houses in use, with the floor of the roosting-chamber raised at least a foot from the ground, struck us as a particularly excellent type. And speaking of these houses reminds us of one principle that Mr. Buxton carries out with more than ordinary thoroughness—the giving of plenty of room. Not only

shown three times, but these occasions resulted in, at Winchester, First and Challenge Cup for the best bird in the show, a Second at Birmingham, and in what would have been First and Challenge Cup at the Palace but for a mistake in the entry which caused the award to be withheld on technical grounds. The hens in this pen include winners at Hayward's Heath, the Dairy, and the Palace. The second pen is headed by a cockerel which won First at the Royal and at Tunbridge Wells, First and four Challenge Cups at Fleet (including the Poultry Club's Challenge Cup for the best cock or cockerel



No. 1 PEN, BLACK ORPINGTONS. [Copyright.]

in show), and other awards ; while pen No. 3 boasts the leadership of a grand cock that was victorious at Hayward's Heath, the Dairy, the

Palace, and Birmingham—to mention the chief successes only—during 1909. The hens in the latter pen are a noticeably strong lot. Only a little behindhand are the records of the Black Orpingtons now mated up. The males of the first three pens are all notable prize-winners, the cockerel in No. 1 and the cock in No. 3 (a massive bird of splendid type) having the most brilliant records. Included in the hens of No. 1 are notable winners at Oxford, Frome, and Bristol, while there are two which were purchased this year at big prices in order to mate up this pen. The hens in No. 3 are described as “mostly unshown,” but for all that they include prize-winners at Eastbourne, Cardiff, and Folkestone. In the first pen of Silver-laced Wyandottes (pullet-breeders), for which variety Mr. Buxton has an affection only second to that for his Jubilees, are hens that have won renown at Tunbridge Wells, Fleet, Winchester, Cardiff, Dorchester, &c., while the Blue Leghorn pen and that of Blue-laced Wyandottes contain birds that have wins to their credit. We must omit detailed reference to the Barred Rocks, the Speckled Sussex, the Faverolles, and the Buff Orpingtons and Buff Orpington Ducks for reason of space. Neither can we linger over the mating arrangements, except to say that, for the most part, the male is run with from three to five hens, and that where this number is exceeded it is due to some special circumstance connected with the desired progeny.

The great range of breeding-pens and their inmates was naturally the feature that occupied most of our attention and has taken up most of this article. One must say something, however, of the other features. In the open meadow that begins where the breeding-pens



SOME OF MR. BUXTON'S SILVER WYANDOTTES.

[Copyright]

TRADE SUPPLEMENT

end we noticed several utility flocks at liberty, a large and commodious house being provided for each flock. Dogs are a necessary and noticeable section of the working staff, for although Mr. Buxton has not suffered recently from foxes, their depredations have been a serious matter in the past, and there is always the chance of a visit from a poultry-loving tramp. Over against the southern boundary are placed some interesting houses and appliances. We noticed a short range of boxes for exhibition cockerels, arranged in pairs, with a run for each pair. When these are tenanted, the birds are let out alternately into the run for the fresh air and exercise that are so essential to their well-being. Nearer the dwelling-house is an excellently roomy shed for sitting hens; for though Mr. Buxton is well supplied with incubators, broodies—we were shown a large pen of them—are always employed for the early chickens. Further on, a pen of Indian Game reminded us that Mr. Buxton uses these birds for crossing, and the utility side of the business was also recalled by some White Wyandottes. A line of cockerel-boxes, ideally sheltered by fir-trees running along this southern boundary, should be noted before we pass on—or, rather, get back—to the plant that is grouped about the back and sides of the dwelling-house. Here are the granaries and the incubator-room, some few dog-kennels, and the low building, forming two sides of a square, in which are contained the workshop

and three lots of exhibition pens, having accommodation for eight, nine, and ten birds respectively. The latter, spacious to a degree, were occupied almost exclusively by the favourite Jubilee and Black Orpingtons. One section of this building, however, is a pigeon-house.

We stopped to examine a brooder in the workshop—a simple but eminently common-sensible brooder, with the lamp in the sleeping section placed in a vessel of water in such a way as practically to obviate the risk of fire, and at the same time with its flame so protected that there is little fear of its being blown out—and learnt that this was the design of Mr. King, who was Mr. Buxton's predecessor on the farm. Mr. Buxton has six of these little-known brooders and six of the recognised makes. Another invention of Mr. King's, a combined coop and sitting-box, very ingenious and very portable, was shown to us outside. The "run" to this contrivance is detachable, but when fixed the whole thing is a model of lightness and rigidity. From the roadway, the front of the house is screened by a pretty coppice, the two angles of which have been utilised as well-shaded runs for White Wyandottes and Game. These give the finishing touch to an establishment that is distinguished alike by the quality of the stock it turns out, by its workmanlike planning, its absence of fads, and its wholesome air of freshness and cleanliness.



VIEW OF EXHIBITION SHED AND BROODER-HOUSE.

[Copyright.]

REVIEW.

THE UTILITY POULTRY CLUB'S YEAR BOOK.

WE have received a copy of the New Year Book and Register issued by the Utility Poultry Club, and we must again congratulate the editor, Mr. B. W. Horne, upon its get-up and upon the excellent manner in which the contents are arranged. The book consists of no fewer than two hundred pages, and contains detailed particulars of the numerous privileges and benefits of membership, followed by a tabulated *résumé* of all the laying competitions held in this country, a list of articles of special interest to poultry-keepers appearing in the agricultural and poultry papers during the past year, and many pages of other educational and statistical matter.

The Monthly Notes for Poultry-Keepers, which for so many years have been a distinguishing feature, are again included, and with them details of a literary competition to be held during the year, having in view the improvement of these notes by the addition of the up-to-date information supplied by the competitors. The idea seems a good one, and should prove both popular and instructive.

The register of breeds is a striking example of laborious compilation. Particulars are given of no less than 1,000 distinct pens of birds kept by members, with details of the strain, the conditions under which they are kept, and their geographical position. There are thirty-two varieties of poultry represented, and the register is a good barometer of popular taste. White Wyandottes and Buff Orpingtons have the largest number of entries; the former with 240 entries and the latter with 100 less.

In his circular letter issued with the book the editor alludes to the Advisory Board, whose members advise gratuitously on the management of poultry. The Board has been further strengthened by the addition of six more experts, and now includes practically all the lecturers engaged by the County Councils and Agricultural Colleges in imparting knowledge on the subject, and it redounds greatly to the credit of the club that it can form a Board of so representative a character.

During the past year the club has taken a prominent part in various matters of moment affecting the poultry industry, such as the conference of the three societies to consider the fox-hunting question, the proposal to form a National Poultry Institute, and the departmental inquiry of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries on the export trade in live-stock. Two of these matters were brought before the 1,300 persons who form the club, and valuable suggestions and evidence obtained, and this facility for getting in touch with the practical poultry-keeper must increase very greatly the influence of the club on the questions of the day.

Certainly the club can record a very successful year, and should continue to increase in members, for it offers advantages for a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. which no keeper of utility poultry can afford to be without.

GERMAN POULTRY INDUSTRY.

IN the last number of the Journal of the National Poultry Organisation Society is given an interim report on the Poultry Industry in Germany, by the hon. sec., which will be followed by a complete report, thus adding to the valuable series issued by the Society named. This first instalment deals specially with Germany's Influence on British Supplies, which has been referred to in the POULTRY RECORD from time to time, and is having an important influence upon imports as well as prices.

The facts marshalled in this interesting report are very striking indeed. After showing that hitherto production of eggs and poultry in Germany has been until recently very much neglected, there has been an enormous increase in consumption, as indicated by the great growth of imports into Germany, together with a rapid rise in values. It is stated that 105,836 tons of eggs were imported in 1898, which had risen to 137,010 tons in 1909, an increase of 29.45 per cent., whereas the values had risen in the same period from £4,258,350 to £6,827,950, or 60.34 per cent., an advance in average prices of 2s. 10d. per hundred, or 42.37 per cent. The same is true as to poultry, but to a lesser extent. From tables given, the importation of live geese in 1909 was no less than 7,784,725 birds, of which 6,681,723 came from Russia. The total increase in values of eggs and poultry imported in 1909 over 1898 was no less than £4,551,000, or 76.34 per cent., which fact explains why from Southern and Eastern Europe there has been a steady decline in supplies to Great Britain. From South Russia, Italy, and Austria-Hungary the reduction is as much as 50 per cent., due, it is suggested, to the great increase of prices in Germany, so that it is becoming more profitable to sell there than to send here. That the change in habits of life in Germany as expressed by the growing consumption of eggs and poultry is permanent appears to be evident, and there is every indication of a rapid increase in the future, with the result that the United Kingdom will be compelled to rely upon its own resources to a greater extent than at any previous period.

Such is the lesson taught by this interesting report, which should be carefully studied by poultry-keepers, as the opportunities before them are vastly greater than ever before. To secure attainment of the object in view, education and organisation are essential. As Mr. Brown says: "All the four countries (United Kingdom) are capable of multiplying production in this branch three or fourfold, Scotland probably sixfold, and with thorough organisation in marketing the results cannot fail to add materially to the returns of farmers of every class." The time has arrived when all concerned should face what is a very serious problem.

**Owing to extreme pressure on our space
we are compelled to hold over Answers to
Correspondents. We have, however, replied
to all by post.**

DAINTILY-DRESSED EGGS.

DURING the present season, when eggs are somewhat scarce and consequently rather expensive, it is a good time to try a few of the most economical methods of cooking and serving them. To the majority of people eggs are always acceptable, even when simply boiled, fried, or poached, but the following recipes will, I think, furnish a pleasant variety, and at the same time help to make the eggs "go further." They are exceedingly dainty and appetising, and not at all extravagant.

EGGS WITH CHEESE.—Butter, very liberally, a fire-proof china dish and sprinkle the bottom with a layer, about a quarter of an inch thick, of fine breadcrumbs and grated cheese in equal quantities; upon this place the requisite number of eggs, first breaking them carefully into a cup, one at a time, then season pleasantly with salt, pepper, and lemon juice; cover with more breadcrumbs and cheese, arrange a few tiny bits of butter on the top, and bake in a moderate oven from twenty to thirty minutes. Serve very hot.

EGGS AND CELERY.—Carefully clean a few heads of fresh crisp celery and boil it in the usual way until quite tender, then drain well and cut the sticks into one inch lengths; place these in a stewpan with an ounce of fresh butter, a seasoning of salt, pepper, and lemon juice, and a light sprinkling of finely-chopped parsley, and toss together over a moderate fire until the various ingredients are well mixed. Then arrange the celery neatly on a hot dish and place some carefully poached, well trimmed eggs on the top; sprinkle these with a little lobster coral, garnish the edge of the dish with sprigs of parsley and fancifully cut slices of fresh lemon, and serve very hot. *Note:* If preferred, or more convenient, use, instead of the celery, some buttered cabbage, or skilfully prepared cucumber, spinach, or onions.

EGGS AND MUSHROOMS.—Prepare in the usual manner a pint of perfectly fresh button mushrooms and stew them gently with a little fresh butter, about two tablespoonfuls of cold water, and a seasoning of salt, pepper, and lemon juice until tender. When done enough, drain the mushrooms and arrange them on a fire-proof china dish; place on top some fresh eggs which have been very carefully broken so as not to injure the yolks. Season these pleasantly, sprinkle very lightly with fine brown raspings, and cook in a moderate oven until the eggs are nicely set, and serve at once.

BAKED EGGS.—Have ready the requisite number of small fire-proof china dariole moulds which have been well buttered and lightly sprinkled with finely chopped fresh parsley, and into each break, very carefully, a perfectly fresh egg; bake in a moderate oven until the eggs are firmly set, then turn them out gently and place them neatly on a thick layer of hot tomato purée which has been arranged in readiness on a hot dish. Insert small slices of curled bacon between the eggs and garnish round the edge of the dish with the same, and sprigs of hot, crisply-fried parsley, and serve quickly.

CURRIED EGGS.—Peel, and slice thinly, three or four medium-sized onions, and fry them until just lightly browned in a small quantity of butter, then sprinkle, and mix well, with about a tablespoonful of good curry powder; add gradually half a pint of stock, and keep stirring constantly until the sauce

is smooth and creamy; then lay in some hard boiled eggs cut in halves or quarters, and allow these to get thoroughly hot. Have ready a hot dish and spread on it a bed of rice, which has been boiled until tender without being at all pulpy, then arrange the eggs on the top and pour the sauce over all. Garnish round the dish with finger pieces of hot crisp toast or fried croûtons, and serve.

SCRAMBLED EGGS ON TOAST.—Break into a stewpan four fresh eggs and add to them two ounces of butter, a seasoning of salt and pepper, and four tablespoonfuls of milk; set the pan on the stove, or over a very gentle fire, and allow the contents to become rather solid; then add two or three tablespoonfuls of lean cooked ham cut into small dice and a dessertspoonful of chopped parsley, and stir briskly with a small wooden spoon until the ingredients are well blended. Arrange some buttered toast, cut into small neat squares, on a hot dish, pour the scrambled eggs over, and serve. If preferred, the toast may be spread with potted meat, anchovy paste, grated cheese, or some creamed fish, &c., just according to taste and convenience.

THE UTILITY POULTRY CLUB.

FOUR MONTHS' LAYING COMPETITIONS.

WITH the third period of four weeks passed, the last stage of these two Competitions has now been entered upon, and interest in the position of the leading pens increases. Whereas during the second month the birds were buffeted with wind and rain, the month just passed produced very different conditions—mild, damp days, with occasional frost, prevailing. In spite, however, of this variation of climatic conditions, the total of eggs laid has been steadily piled up.

At Grimley, near Worcester, where Mr. George Nicholls has seventy-eight pens of four pullets each under his care, the number of eggs laid for the third four weeks is 3,763, making a total of 7,905 for the first twelve weeks. Every pen has now contributed, though some few birds have still not yet laid an egg. The pen of White Leghorns (Pen 72), which held first place at the end of the first and second months, has had to give way to a pen of Buff Orpingtons (Pen 13), which now leads by seven eggs; while a pen of White Wyandottes makes a close third, being only six eggs behind. Representatives of perhaps the three most popular laying breeds are thus fighting for the first place, and as one bird of the leading pen has temporarily retired from the contest and become broody, White Wyandottes appear to have a good chance of regaining the position which they held in 1902-3 and 1903-4. The record of Pen 60 (Buff Rocks) is worthy of note, for after being forty-seventh at the end of the first month, it rushed up to twelfth place at the end of the second month, and now holds seventh place.

In the Northern Competition, managed by Mr. William Barron at Bartle, near Preston, thirty-four pens are competing, and have contributed 1,837 eggs during the month, making a total of 5,136 for the first twelve weeks. The three leading pens retain the same positions as at the end of the first eight weeks, and White Wyandottes look like retaining their lead. The birds in both Competitions are competing for prizes and medals to be awarded for the greatest value in eggs laid. Trap-nests are used, so that the score of each individual bird is kept. An inspection of the Competition should be of educative value to those interested in poultry-keeping, and the managers are pleased to see visitors and give them any information.